SURRY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
3 3252 00053689 4

WHITAKER'S CHAPEL
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

ONE HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY

1908 - 2008

GLH
NC
SURRY
CHUR
W45

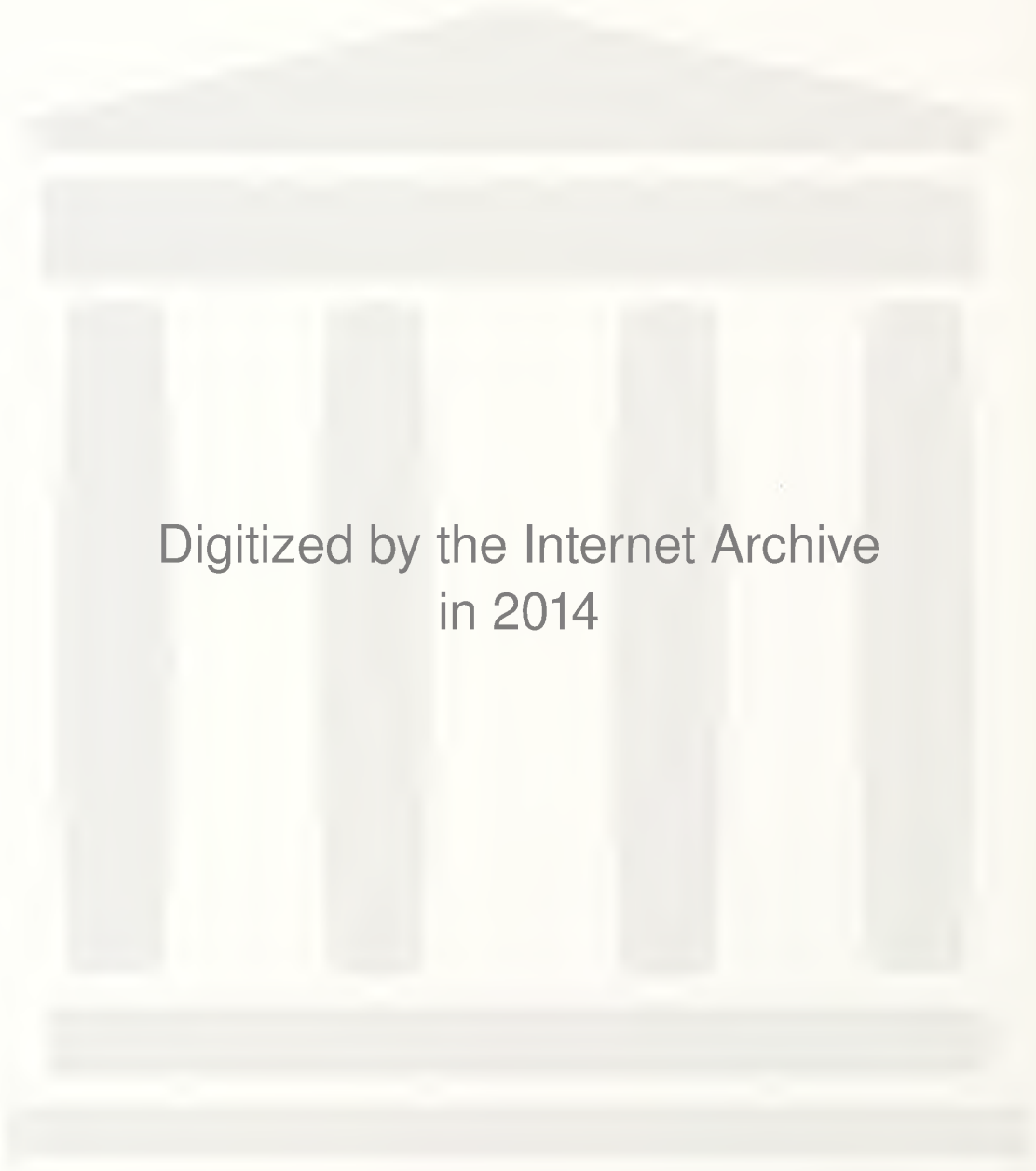
ERVING GOD AND COMMUNITY

WHITAKER'S CHAPEL
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

ONE HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY

1908 - 2008

SERVING GOD AND COMMUNITY


Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2014

https://archive.org/details/whitakerschapelu00whit

THIS COMMENMORATIVE BOOK IS RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF

MR. CLAUDE E. JONES

1888-1962

MR. JONES WAS THE SON OF JOSEPH F. AND HESTER WHITAKER JONES AND THE GRANDSON OF GILES WHITAKER.

HE WAS A MEMBER OF THE ORIGINAL BOARD OF TRUSTEES, AND WAS A DEVOTED MEMBER OF THE CHURCH DURING HIS ENTIRE LIFETIME. HE SUPPORTED THE CHURCH BY HIS PRESENCE, HIS LEADERSHIP AND HIS GENEROSITY.

September 19, 2008

God truly blessed me when I was called to serve Whitaker's Chapel UMC in 2005. When I arrived I found a congregation anxious to build their Sunday School program, intentionally study the Bible, enthusiastically worship God, while continuing to serve others in their community and throughout the world.

As we have celebrated the 100th anniversary of Whitaker's Chapel this year, I am reminded of a heritage that truly has followed the mission statement of Bishop McClesky to Follow Jesus, Make Disciples, and Transform the World. Whitaker's Chapel showed a true desire to follow Jesus as they established the church following the brush arbor revival. The recovery from two fires, including the May 1950 fire which destroyed the church, could have discouraged a less faithful congregation but through all adversity, Whitaker's Chapel has continued to show its love for God and trust that God will lead them in all that they do.

The emergence of a successful Vacation Bible School has given our church an opportunity to witness to the community. We will not soon forget the celebration under the "Giant Oak Tree", the children's excitement in the fire truck, or releasing the many balloons into the heavens as we remembered all "the saints" who have come before us at Whitaker's Chapel. The Christmas Program, annual Easter Egg Hunt, annual Fall Bazaar, and other fellowship events have also provided opportunities for Whitaker's Chapel to share their love with everyone around us.

Since 2005, Whitaker's Chapel has done its part to transform the world. I will always remember the generous love and financial support given to our adopted family affected by Hurricane Katrina. The continued support for the Pilot Mountain Community, including many oil tanks filled and meals served, has inspired me to serve as Christ served. Whitaker's Chapel continues to step up without hesitation to support mission throughout the world.

Whitaker's Chapel has much to celebrate as we reflect over the past 100 years. Although there will be significant challenges ahead, I am also confident that if we remain faithful to God's calling for us individually and for our church, Whitaker's Chapel will enjoy hundreds of years of successful ministry to come. We must always remember that "***I can do all things through him who strengthens me***." (Phil 4:13)

Peace and Grace,

Rev. David Raiford

MISSION STATEMENT

Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors

Follow Jesus, Make Disciples, Transform the World

"The mission of the United Methodist Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ."

As united members of the body of Christ, we of the Pilot View, Shoals, and Whitaker's Chapel United Methodist Churches also claim that mission statement as an integral part of our faith heritage.

We receive this mission statement from our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, who said in Matthew 28:19-20 "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you."

As ministers of Christ, we as both clergy and laity, see as our duty to God the responsibility of proclaiming the good news of God's grace through Jesus Christ, and seeking the fulfillment of God's reign in the world. The United Methodist Church affirms that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, the Savior of the world, and the Lord of all.

This mission is our grace-filled response to the Reign of God in the world announced by Jesus Christ.

The heart of Christian ministry is Christ's ministry of outreaching love. Therefore, all Christians both laity and clergy, are called through their baptism to this ministry of service in the world to the glory of God, and for human fulfillment. As such, we call all persons into discipleship under the Lordship of Jesus Christ as we are called together for worship, fellowship, and the building up of the Christian community.

*The means by which we carry out the mission of the church is this: we make disciples of Christ as we_*

1. *Proclaim the gospel; seek, welcome and gather persons into the body of Christ.*
2. *Lead persons to commit their lives to God through baptism and profession of faith in Jesus Christ.*
3. *Nurture persons in Christian living through worship, the sacraments, spiritual disciplines, and other means of grace.*
4. *Send persons into the world to live lovingly and justly as servants of Christ by healing the sick, feeding the hungry, caring for the stranger, freeing the oppressed, and working to develop social structures that are consistent with the gospel.*
5. *Continue the mission of seeking, welcoming, and gathering persons into the community of the body of Christ.*

We expect to fulfill this mission by the grace of God through the power of the Holy Spirit.

A NOTE OF APPRECIATION

The members of the Homecoming Committee sincerely appreciate the information that was recorded from the early establishment of the church and maintained by devoted members such as Betty Denny, Lula Flinchum, Holly Whitaker and others. Not only did we have this information to draw from and build upon but also we had recollections handed down orally by others. Without the willingness of those who loved and appreciated the importance of the history of the church and their willingness to spend their time clipping articles about events, saving letters, keeping pictures, sharing their recollections, etc. our task of preparing the Keepsake Book would have been much more difficult. We appreciate those who have shared their personal family pictures and stories about church events both past and present.

We hope that each one that has participated in and/or attended our monthly programs leading up to the Homecoming have been blessed as much as we have. The interest and enthusiasm we have witnessed at these programs show us that our church is ready to carry the banner as valiantly into the next century of the church as our founders. The torch is being passed to a new generation for leadership. The ground-work has been firmly and securely laid. We only have to continue to be faithful, committed, and prayerfully willing to do God's work.

Without your help our labors of love for God and this church project would have been much more challenging. Thus, a simple but sincere "Thank You" is extended to all (both past and present) who have shared and participated.

Homecoming Committee Members

Mrs. Shannon Barber
Mrs. Pansy Broughton
Mrs. Linda Covington
Mrs. Kennette Thomas

WHITAKER'S CHAPEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

ORIGINAL BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Mr. Claude E. Jones

Mr. Giles Whitaker

Mr. C. L. Chandler

CHURCH CHARTER MEMBERS

Mr. Giles Whitaker

Lilla J. Denny

Laura Chandler

Corry Cox

Alice Sechrist

Mamie Jones

Nora Fulk

Claude E. Jones

M. Yancey Denny

Nancy Denny

Jane Chandler

Sadie Jones

Elizabeth Denny

Hester W. Jones

Charlie L. Chandler

Ellen Denny

Henry Sechrist

Rena Whitaker

Cornellius Jones

WHITKER'S CHAPEL'S PASTORS

1908- Rev. Fine held a revival under the tree at Mr. Whitaker's home. The church was founded.

R. L. Doggett - 1914-1915

L.H. Stimpson - 1915-1916

J.W. Combs - 1916-1921

J.H. Capps - 1921-1923

N.W. Wall - 1923

J. A. Cook = 1923-1924

N.W. Wellman - 1924-1926

J.A. Howell - 1927-1928

W.B. Thompson - 1929-1932

A.L. Latham - 1933

J.W. Bennett - 1934

C.C. Washam - 1935-1940

R.A. Brown - 1941-1942

C.B. Ross - 1943-1946

H.A. Johnson - Circuit - 1944-1945

L.P. Barnett - 1947

R.E. Ward - 1948-1950

J.W. Combs -1950-1954

Wayne Woodward - 1955-1957

Foster Loflin - 1958-1961

Dewey Morrison - 1961

Clay Manning - 1962-1968

Jimmie Holland - 1969

Aubert Smith - 1969-1972

Art Chamblee - 1973-1977

Bill Baldwin - 1977

Larry Bumgardner - 1978-1979

Cecil Marcellas - 1978

Tom Southern - 1979-1981

Jack Danley - 1982-1990

Phil Park - 1990-1992

Arthur Livengood - 1992-1994

Bill Lovelace - 1994-1999

Elise Brown - 1999-2001

Betty/Sid Boyd - 2001-2005

David Raiford - 2005-Present
Cathy Turman - 2005-2007
Cliff Wall - Jan.-June 2008

Arthur Livengood - 2008-Present

WHITAKER'S CHAPEL

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP - 2002

SERVING GOD AND THE COMMUNITY

THE HISTORY OF WHITAKER'S CHAPEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Early Church History Pre-1908-1950

Whitaker's Chapel United Methodist Church, in the manner of many rural Southern churches, can trace its origin to informal gatherings of Christians, desirous of the opportunity to worship God with the company of their friends and neighbors. So, it was here, in what was then called the Deron community, a man came forth to lead the faithful of the community in its search for religious services to meet their needs. It should be recalled that during this time the people living in this community who wished to attend an organized church had to walk, or if they were fortunate enough to have a horse drawn buggy, drive many miles to attend worship services. At this time, the nearest Methodist Church was located in Ararat, a distance of some five miles in each direction from the community.

The name of this God-called man was Giles Whitaker, who was born nearby in 1842. As a young man, Giles demonstrated an intense religious nature which was in great measure a result of the early training by his mother. The onset of the Civil War in 1861 saw Giles enlisted as a member of Company C of the 21st North Carolina Regiment which was mustered into Confederate service in Mount Airy. During his service throughout the war, Private Whitaker conducted worship services for the men of Company C, preached the Gospel, counseled men in need of comfort, and in time came to be regarded as the Chaplain for the Company. After the war, he returned to farming in Surry County as did many of those who survived this terrible conflict. By the year 1882, he had purchased a farm in the Deron community, and built his home in the shade of an ancient white oak tree, that would, in time, become known far and wide as the "Giles Whitaker Tree." By the year 1890, Mr. Whitaker along with Mrs. Hester Whitaker Jones, Mrs. Nora Whitaker Fulk, Lilla Jones Denny and others had joined the New Hope Methodist Church in Ararat. As mentioned, the distance to attend church was long and many times difficult, so began the preaching under the limbs of the ancient oak tree by Mr. Whitaker and other local preachers as well as circuit riding preachers. When the weather was inclement, services were often held in the mill store across the dirt road from Mr. Whitaker's residence. As time passed and the community grew in size, it became more and more apparent that the need for constructing a formal building to serve the congregation was needed. However, for nearly twenty years Giles Whitaker's home and its famous tree had served as a gathering place for neighboring Christians to nourish their faith. Time and circumstances were now to relegate this early place of worship to the history pages of the church. In 1915, Mr. J.W. Denny Sr. purchased the farm including the home and the famous tree, and the property remains in the Denny family to this day. Mr. Whitaker subsequently built a new home nearby where he lived until his death in 1920. He is buried in the cemetery adjacent to the church which now bears his name.

As the new century opened, the need for a new church to be built in the community was evident. However, it was not until 1908 that the first steps were taken to formally organize the church. In the spring of this year, a tent meeting was conducted by Reverend Fine near Mr. Whitaker's home, and at this meeting the organization of a new church took place. The new members were those who attended this revival held by Reverend Fine and those who transferred their membership from New Hope Methodist Episcopal Church. The charter members of the church were: Giles Whitaker, Nora Fulk, Hester W. Jones, Claude E. Jones, Lilla J. Denny, Charlie L. Chandler, Laura Chandler, M. Yancey Denny, Ellen Denny, Corry Cox, Nancy Denny, Henry Sechrist, Alice Sechrist, Jane Chandler, Rena Whitaker, Mamie Jones, Sadie Jones, Cornellius Jones and Elizabeth Denny.

Services continued to be held in the old mill store during the years 1908 and 1909 when on November 10th of that latter year, Armitta Flinchum, J. Luther Holland and wife Betty Flinchum Holland, Henry R. Denny and wife Eliza Flinchum Denny deeded to the new church trustees, Giles Whitaker, Claude E. Jones and C. L. Chandler, a lot containing nine tenths of an acre more or less on which the first church was to be built. The name of this new church was to be; The Grassy Knob Methodist Episcopal Church South, Mt. Airy District. The lot was adjacent to the community cemetery then known as Webster's Cemetery, and is the same parcel of land on which the present day church stands. Under the leadership of its trustees, donations of money, timber and labor were received and the small wooden frame church was completed in 1912. The first pastor assigned to the new church was the Reverend R. L. Doggett who served in this capacity from 1913 until 1915.

Armitta Fulk Flinchum

From 1911 to 1912, Mr. Whitaker with the help of other men from the community constructed the new church building. It should be recalled that all materials used in this construction from the felling of trees, to the shaping of boards, and finally the assembling of timbers and framing were accomplished by the hard, physical work of him and men of the community. That they wished a church of their own is evident. The Rev. J.W. Combs served as pastor of the church from 1916 to 1920, and the new church thrived under his leadership. In 1920, the church suffered a staggering blow with the passing of Mr. Giles Whitaker, whom God had called home to rest from his labors. The mantle of responsibility then fell to his grandson Mr. Claude E. Jones who readily accepted the task, and was to carry the vision forward that his grandfather had begun. Throughout the remainder of his life, Mr. Jones generously supported the church both financially and spiritually. For many years, he drove from his home in Winston Salem once each month to attend services at Whitaker's Chapel UMC. His generosity and involvement with the church will be brought forth later in this history. This period in the history of the church with all of its joy over the completion of the new church was not without its moments of sadness and

mourning. On May 2, 1921, Mrs. Maude Pell Jones, the wife of Mr. Claude E. Jones died from the complications of childbirth. The death of this woman was a tragic loss. Her grave in the adjacent Webster's Cemetery is shown in the picture accompanying this text. This photograph also contains the only known partial picture of the first, wooden church built by Mr. Whitaker and the men of the community.

It is interesting to note that in this period of time, the excavation of graves was not done, as today, by machinery, but rather was done by first the tolling of the church bell, at the sound of which men of the community would gather at the gravesite, shovels and picks in hand, and would then prepare the grave. This practice, in later years, gave way to modern methods. However, in its time, it provided a bringing together of the church community into one body.

In 1926, while at a revival conducted by the Rev. J.W. Combs, flames were noticed near the chimney flue of the church. The service was dismissed, and the men began hauling water from a nearby well in an effort to extinguish the flames. In the meantime, the women removed the furnishing from the church, and prayed that their church might be saved. The men were able to confine the damage to the roof and the chimney flue, and the remainder of the church was saved. The following morning, worship services were held at the Grassy Knob School located in a field near the church. Services continued to be held at the school until the repairs to the church were completed.

The church continued in its ministry to the community during the decade of the 1930's during which the country underwent the worst financial depression in its history. The emergence of the following decade saw two important events in the life of the church. The war that soon engulfed the world, required the services of many of the young men in the community who were drafted or enlisted in the armed forces. Miss Eva Fulk, along with Mrs. Holly Whitaker and others were instrumental in creating the largest Sunday School attendance for children that the church had ever experienced. Many of these children were neighborhood children whose only religious experience came from their attendance at the Whitaker's Chapel Sunday School conducted by these devoted women.

The History of Whitaker's Chapel U.M.C. from 1950 to Present Day

The first week of the new decade was one of great importance to the church. On January 7, 1950, electric service came to the church and the lights were turned on. The joy was short lived, for on May 28th of that year at about 9:30 in the evening a severe electrical storm struck the area. Lightning struck the church and completely destroyed it along with its contents. Among the treasured artifacts that were destroyed was the pump organ that had been donated to the church by Mr. Giles Whitaker. The following Saturday, church members, as well as people within the community, gathered to plan the rebuilding of the church. During this meeting, the people pledged their time, money, materials or whatever they could provide to

insure that the church was rebuilt. For the following three and one half months, people committed to the rebuilding of the church worked diligently and gave generously. The Rev. R. E. Ward was the church pastor during this time, and he was instrumental in the rebuilding program. Mr. Claude E. Jones, an early trustee of the church, was one of the founding partners of the Fowler-Jones Construction Company in Winston Salem and was destined to be a major benefactor in the rebuilding of the church. Mr. Jones sent work crews from his company to do the actual construction of the new church. The reconstruction of the church was under the general supervision of Mr. Kenneth J. Denny who was both the designer of the church as well as the construction superintendent. On September 17th, 1950, the first service was conducted in the new, brick church. This was Rev. Ward's final service prior to his retirement. His sermon that Sunday was entitled "Upon This Rock I Will Build My Church", a fitting subject for the occasion. The dedication of the new brick church was conducted by District Superintendent C. Excell Rozelle in 1952.

With renewed spirits and a new church there came a new and vibrant interest in church affairs and a surge of rapid growth. In 1955, an educational wing with classrooms, rest rooms and a fellowship hall with kitchen facilities was added to the original structure. On September 28th of that year the dedication service for the new wing was conducted by District Superintendent Dr. Lee Tuttle.

For many years, this church had filled the religious and social needs of its youth, adult families, and the community at large. It was at this church that the youth learned and developed life skills that enabled them to become "pillars" of the church. By necessity, some have gone to other communities and churches and have become leaders thereby sharing their knowledge and skills acquired while growing up in Whitaker's Chapel. During the decade from the mid-fifties to the mid-sixties the youth program (Methodist Youth Fellowship) was at its peak. There was also a large youth choir, composed of many of the youngsters in the Methodist Youth Fellowship. These were not a group of young people meeting to have fun but rather it was a group dedicated to worshipping God and helping others. Under the outstanding leadership of its adult leaders, the youth group had several fund raising projects to help the needy and other mission causes. Their most impressive achievement was the purchase and installation of the lighted cross in the church sanctuary, which was installed in 1963.

The year 1963 was a memorable year because it was, in this period, that a group of women in the church organized the first United Methodist Women's Group, then known as the Women's Society of Christian Service. The charter members of this group will be listed elsewhere in this paper. During the years 1965 through 1968 major renovations were made to the church. These included a divider in the Fellowship Hall, the plastering of the sanctuary and carpeting was installed throughout the church. By means of a generous gift from Kenneth and Margaret Denny, the pews were padded and upholstered, both the seats and the backs. The church was continuing its growth period and as always served as a focal point of the

community. It was a place for celebrations, gatherings such as weddings, anniversary celebrations, family reunions, fellowship dinners and the like. There were also times of grief; however, the church body utilized these times as an opportunity to do God's work of serving others by preparing meals for grieving families, to love and care for them as we are all "family" here.

In 1975, a major project that the United Methodist Women's Group had been working on for the past two years came to fruition. The Group was able to purchase a new steeple for the church which was placed on the church on May 2, 1975; and has since served as a beacon for all who came within view. The Rev. Arthur Chamblee conducted the dedication service for the new steeple the first Sunday in November 1975.

During the pastorate of the Rev. Jack Danley a parsonage was built and completed in 1987; however, Rev. Danley and his family never resided in the new parsonage. Its completion coincided with the time for ministerial appointments at the annual conference, and Rev. Danley was reassigned. The Rev. Phil Park and his family became the first occupants of the parsonage in 1988. In 1989, a Hammond organ was donated to the church and handicapped ramps were built where appropriate throughout the church.

Under the leadership of Rev. Arthur Livengood, the ground breaking for a new, much larger fellowship hall was conducted on July 25, 1993. On March 16, 1994, Whitaker's Chapel received an $18,000 construction grant from the Duke Endowment Fund. The addition of a front porch for the church and the new Fellowship Hall were completed and consecrated on May 1, 1994. Remarkably, in less than three years following the groundbreaking ceremony for the Fellowship Hall, the faithful stewards of the church, through the means of many fund raising events had liquidated the remaining mortgage on the new building. The mortgage burning and the dedication service was conducted by District Superintendent Franklin W. Grice on October 13, 1996.

In 1994, the United Methodist Women's Group purchased the baptismal font and placed it in the church in memory of Betty Denny, Lula Flinchum, Ada Shelton and Holly Whitaker. On November 5, 1995, the baptismal font was dedicated to the memory of these four charter members.

On April 10, 1994, a new Yamaha piano was donated to the church and was dedicated to Margie Denny for her years of faithful service to the church in the capacity of pianist, choir director, and Director of Music for the church. One third of the purchase price of the piano was paid for by the United Methodist Men's Group, and the remainder by an anonymous benefactor.

Periodically, during the next three years discussions and research was conducted concerning the replacement of the then existing windows in the church sanctuary with ones of stained glass. After visiting several churches and talking with several

contractors, a decision was made and a contract for the windows was signed. Installation of the stained glass windows was completed in 2002. A plaque with the alphabetical listing of the names of the people to whom each window was dedicated "in memory of" or "in honor of" was installed on October 13, 2002.

In 2004, a portion of the cemetery was reserved for the establishment of a "Memory Garden" for cremated remains. Since then a bench has been provided for the comfort and convenience of those who come to remember their loved ones. In the year 2008, the church has reached a milestone in its history, of its service to God, the community and each other. A few events leading to the Homecoming of 2008 are briefly noted below.

- **The year began with the adoption of a Safe Sanctuary Policy and Procedures Guide in March 2008**
- **In April, Whitaker's Chapel UMC was recognized for 100 years of service and the banner was presented at the annual conference.**
- **On July 27, 2008, a class on Sacred Harp-Shape Note Music was conducted. The program was well attended by both church members and people from the surrounding area.**
- **The Vacation Bible School was an original program reenacting major events in the history of the church. It was held August 10-12, 2008.**
- **On August 10th, the children and program leaders and participants walked from the church to the ancient oak tree once belonging to Mr. Giles Whitaker, for the devotional lesson, a short history of the founding of the church under the tree, the traditions of the times, and games from the early 1900's such as a potato sack race.**
- **On August 11th, the children learned about the fiery furnace episode with Shadrack, Meshack, and Abednego. Then they were instructed about the fires at the church in 1926 and 1950. The children participated in a bucket brigade to put out the fire, and the activities culminated with the arrival of a local fire department truck.**
- **On August 12th, the children were instructed about the nine gifts of the Spirit in the Bible, and how they can be applied in our daily lives. The children enjoyed the celebration party commemorating the one hundred years of service by the church, and prayed for God's blessings upon the church for the next one hundred years.**
- **On September 28th, a program entitled "Voices from the Past" will be presented as a reenactment of an interview with a circuit riding Methodist minister of 1858. Documentation for the program was taken from the diaries of Rev. Marquis Lafayette Wood, held by the Archives Library of Duke University.**
- **October 12, 2008 will be celebrated as the Homecoming for 2008. Former pastors and members have been cordially invited to attend.**

During the first 100 years of the rich heritage of Whitaker's Chapel United Methodist Church, we can see the unfailing commitment, tireless efforts and prevailing faith of its leaders and members. This rural church stands today as a

tribute to the dedication and loving service of our first members. We, the members today, commit ourselves to the continued service to God and the community. We envision a bright future for Whitaker's Chapel. With God's blessings, faithful and committed leaders, and a praying congregation that has "a mind to work," the mission of the church; to heal, restore, reconcile and extend God's saving grace will be realized.

Typical worship service beneath a brush arbor

MARSY
BROUGHTON

The Farm Page

The Farm Front

By Martin Howard
Journal and Sentinel Farm Editor

How good were the "good old days"? . . . .

It was late August, 1862.

The white-sided knob atop Pilot Mountain shimmered in the brassy heat. Farmsteads scattered along the valleys and slopes still felt the blast of Summer. Some sickness was abroad in these foothills, and the gravity of a nation locked in grim internal war oppressed all homes.

In the family of Mr. and Mrs. Bryson Fulk, whose farm lay almost in the shadow of towering Pilot, 11-year-old Joseph was ailing. A throat inflammation. Daughter Frances, aged 9, also appeared listless. The several other children, however, were normally cheerful and full of fun.

The parents were anxious. They knew about the dread diphtheria. They, like their neighbors, knew it was a dangerous, often fatal, disease. But nobody knew much about treating it. A tea-gargle brewed from red oak bark and alum was the common remedy.

By Aug. 23, Joseph was in a high fever, and found breathing difficult. Next day he died.

By this time, Frances was complaining of a headache. She had a slight fever, and despite the hot summer was subject to chills. Frances died on Aug. 29.

Within a week, Lee, a toddler just a little more than three years old, was stricken. He succumbed to the dread disease on Sept. 8.

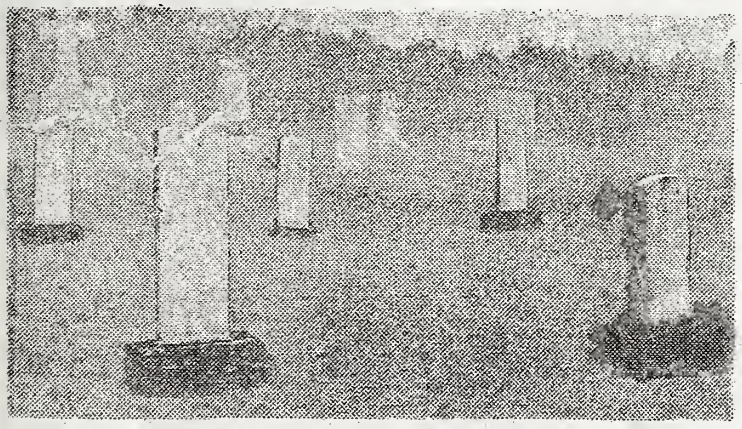
Before that funeral was held, six-year-old Melissa Ann was ailing—the same symptoms, the same malady. She died three days later.

David, the youngest of the family, not quite two, was stricken. He died on Sept. 13.

Thus a feared pestilence, before which the early medical science of that day was itself helpless, almost destroyed a family within the space of three weeks.

Almost, but not quite: Mrs. Mose McKinney, an elder daughter of the Fulks, was to undergo the sad ordeal in her own family a decade or more later, when four children died within a two-weeks period . . . .

The grave stones of the Fulk children may be seen today, standing in what is now Whitakers Chapel Cemetery in Surry



. . .five graves of Fulk children. . .

County. A few miles distant, in a private burial plot, are the graves of the McKinney children.

James McKinney, one of the survivors of that later epidemic, and J. W. Denny, a nephew of Bryson Fulk, can relate today the difficulties and grim ordeals of life before the turn of the century. And what their parents told them about the hardships of still earlier years pieces out the pattern.

The "good old days" were not very good for children it appears.

Malignant disease was by no means the only rural hardship. To rest a livelihood from the land called for long hours of hard physical labor. Clearing land—a mere breezy chore for the modern bulldozer—meant in the old days long weeks and months of arduous labor with axe and saw and grubbing hoe. Tilling the land was similarly hard on man and beast alike.

That way of life did not involve man's labor alone.

Convincing evidence was no doubt to be found on most farms of the truth of the old saying, "A man's work is from sun to sun, but woman's work is never done." Kitchen drudgery, washing drudgery, the long hours of tedious work with needle and thimble and thread to clothe the family—these and many other tasks kept the average housewife busy the year through.

. . .disease is conquered. . .

And the roads: "These clay hills used to be really something to get into and out of in wet weather," Mr. Denny remarked last week.

Long and bone-jolting labor to clear land, long hours of constant work with mule and plow and hoe and rake to till it—and what about the yields of crops the land returned?

A few samples:

Tobacco—maybe 500 pounds to the acre.

Corn—10 to 25 bushels.

Wheat—a few bushels . . . .

Besides his labor, besides his daily perplexities, besides his methods of traveling to and fro across the land, Man has yet another factor in his life: His attitudes, shaped by his environment and the buffeting by all his problems.

Perhaps it is in this later sphere that older memories, reach back into the past with nostalgic fondness, focus wistfully upon the slow pace for former years. Those olden days seem now leisurely and therefore good.

They were good. Life is good, or no species would have survived. All days are good. But were the "good old days" better than our present ones?

Disease and sickness have been by no means conquered, but most of the plagues have been brough under control—many virtually exterminated. Yellow fever, scarlet fever, typhoid, diphtheria, smallpox—these and other contagions have been conquered.

The work of farming remains a man-size job, but machinery and electricity have lightened the load to a phenomenal extent, and have shortened the man-hours required to a tenth and even less.

By no means all rural homes have modern conveniences, but light and water and mechanical installations have come into so many millions of them that the picture has been radically changed.

Rural road systems have been developed.

Modern farming know-how has boosted crop yields tremendously.

Rural attitudes have changed.

And perhaps this is most significant of all: Man's outlook on life quickens with new interest. Great changes have been made, and he knows it. Greater changes are in store for him—he sees that promise.

More and more, he puts his shoulder to the wheel alongside his neighbor—to bring forth more quickly the "good new and brighter days."

CHARTER MEMBERS
WOMEN'S SOCIETY OF CHRISTIAN SERVICE
NOW KNOWN AS
UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Mrs. Jess Branch
Mrs. Clay Denny
Mrs. Curtis Denny
Mrs. J.W. Denny Jr.
Mrs. Willis Denny
Mrs. Lula Flinchum
Mrs. Rex Flinchum
Mrs. Spencer Flinchum
Mrs. Jack Hill
Mrs. Bob Jewett
Mrs. Alvis Lawson
Mrs. Clay Manning
Mrs. Ebbie Phillips
Mrs. Alvin Reid Sr.
Mrs. Charlie Shelton
Mrs. General Shelton
Mrs. Ted Shelton
Mrs. Howard Tucker
Mrs. Gil Whitaker
Mrs. Oscar Whitaker

A 1999 Meeting of the United Methodist Women

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School is and always has been an integral part of our heritage of worship. It is the time during the formative years of our children that they are taught the basics of religious beliefs Upon this basic acquired knowledge our youth participate and build upon their faith. Not only is Sunday School for the children of the church but it is also a time for the adults to come together to search the Scriptures for new and deeper meanings as revealed by the divine spirit within. For we all realize the meaning of the Scriptures is revealed to us as we have developed and grown in our Christian faith. Just as with the twelve apostles, Jesus revealed Himself and the kingdom plan "bit by bit" as they were capable of understanding, so it is with the Word.

Sunday School is not only an on-going process of acquiring and sharing Biblical knowledge but also a time of fellowship and social exchanges. For many it is the most valuable time they have for the traditional worship service. In the early years worship service was known as "the preaching service." Regardless of the terminology the two Sunday School and worship go together to fulfill our individual needs of learning about God,, knowing and serving Him.

COPR. & PRINTED BY PROV. LITHO. CO., U. S. A.

DAVID AND THE SLEEPING KING

Memory Verse: As ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise. Luke 6:31.

Issued Quarterly. September 22, 1935.

OLIVET PICTURE CARDS.

Vol. 39. No. 38. Part 3. September 22, 1935.

David and the Sleeping King
(I Sam. 26)

Bible verse: "As ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise." (Luke 6:31.)

DAVID was hiding in the mountains. He saw men camping in the valley below him. They were the king and his soldiers, and they were looking for David.

When it was night, David, with one of his men, crept down into the camp. The soldiers were asleep. No one was guarding the king, who lay sleeping, too. David's man said: "The king would kill you if he could. Now let me strike him as he sleeps. Then you will be safe."

"No," said David. "When he knows I have spared him, perhaps he will not hate me so much. Let us take his water bottle and spear that stand beside him. Then he will know we have been here."

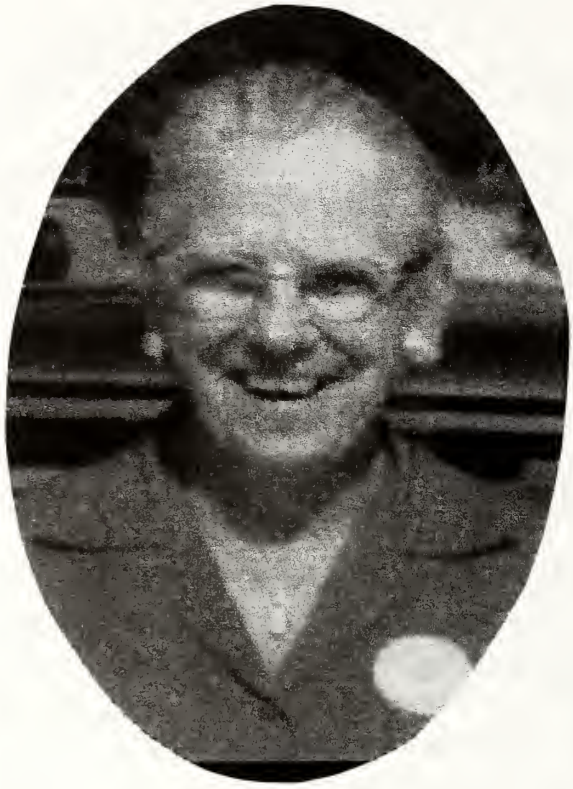
The men crept away. When they were on the other side of the valley, David called to King Saul: "See, I have spared your life. I stood by you while you were sleeping. To prove it, I have your water bottle and your spear. Send a man for them."

The king was ashamed that he had hated David. He went back to the palace, and David went on into the mountains to live.

Published Quarterly at 4c. each per Quarter.
PUBLISHING HOUSE OF THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, SOUTH. Whitmore & Smith, Agents, 810 Broadway, Nashville, Tenn.; 1308 Commerce St., Dallas, Tex.; Fifth and Grace Streets, Richmond, Va.
Entered as second-class matter at the Nashville post-office.
Acceptance for mailing at special rates of postage provided in section 1103, act of October 3, 1917, authorized on July 5, 1918.

Typical Sunday School Attendance Card ca. 1935

Holly Whitaker



Lula Flinchum Jones

Lilla Jones Denny

Rena Whitaker

Eva Fulk Chilton

Betty Denny

Eva Fulk, Teacher

1st Row:
Lucy Shelton (Whitaker), Lillian Gillispie (Phillips), Troy Phillips, Jeanette Gillispie (Phillips)

2nd Row:
Edith Denny, Ethelyne Beasley, Pansy Adams, James Phillips, William Gillispie, Calvin Owens

3rd Row:
(Unknown), Melvin Chilton, Ebbie Phillips

1st Row:
Billy Denny, Betty Cox, Spencer Flinchum, Glennie Beasley, Treva Adams

2nd Row:
Shirley Flinchum, Elizabeth Cox, J. E. Cox, Rex Flinchum, J. G. Beasley

3rd Row
Lois Cox, Helen Denny, Lola Denny, Connie Denny, (holding Joe Denny) Lillie Adams (holding Baby Adams, Doris Adams, Eloise Phillips, Essie Phillips, Virginia Flinchum, Mary Lou Hill

4th Row:
Ernest Cox, Curtis Denny, Bert Flinchum, Buel Adams, Lula Flinchum, Cora Dodson, Frank Dodson.

Holly Whitaker, Teacher

Billy Whitaker, in cut off portion - 2 pictures snapped

Children: Mildred Denny, Betty Chilton, Paul Phillips, Jimmie Chilton, J. G. Beasley, Junior Denny, Rex Flinchum & 3 unknown

L to R

Eva Fulk holding baby Adams, (baby daughter of Buel Adams)

Elizabeth Cox, (daughter of Lois & Ernest Cox) holding Joe Denny (son of Connie & Lola Denny)

Uncle Frank & Aunt Cora Dodson

MAY 1, 1994

WHITAKERS CHAPEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

CONSECRATION OF FELLOWSHIP HALL

PRELUDE

HYMN Page 545

Minister: Serve the Lord with gladness.
Response: ENTER INTO HIS GATES WITH THANKSGIVING, AND INTO HIS COURTS WITH PRAISE.
Minister: O come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the Lord our maker.
Response: FOR HE IS OUR GOD, AND WE ARE THE PEOPLE OF HIS PASTURE, AND THE SHEEP OF HIS HAND.
Minister: Let us pray. O God, eternal and ever blessed, who delightest in the assemblying of thy people: Hear our prayer for this house, which we would devote henceforth to the honor of thy name. Grant, we beeseech thee, that peace and prosperity may be found within these walls, that thy glory may be the light thereof, and that we, and all who come within it, may be satisfied with the goodness of thy house; through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.
Response: BLESSED BE THY NAME, O LORD, THAT THOU HAST GIVEN TO THY SERVANTS A HOLY WILL AND SACRED DESIRE, TO ERECT AND SANCTIFY TO THINE OWN WORSHIP THIS BUILDING, WHICH WE NOW OPEN FOR THINE HONOR AND GLORY. GRANT THAT WE, AND ALL WHO COME WITHIN THESE PORTALS, SHALL EVER MAKE RIGHT USE OF IT, AND THAT THE SPLENDOR OF THY PRESENCE SHALL BE MANIFEST THEREIN, AND THE HEARTS OF THY PEOPLE BE EVER BLESSED: THROUGH JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD. AMEN.

Anthem Choir

Minister: Arise, shine; for your light has come,
Response AND THE GLORY OF THE LORD HAS RISEN UPON YOU.
Minister: For behold, darkness shall cover the earth,
Response: AND THICK DARKNESS THE PEOPLE;
Minister: But the Lord will arise upon you,
Response: AND HIS GLORY WILL BE SEEN UPON YOU.
Minister: And nations shall come to your light,
Response: AND KINGS TO THE BRIGHTNESS OF YOUR RISING.
Minister: The abundance of the sea shall be turned to you,
Response: THE WEALTH OF THE NATIONS SHALL COME TO YOU.
Minister: Your gates shall be open continually,
Response: DAY AND NIGHT THEY SHALL NOT BE SHUT.
Minister: Violence shall no more be heard in your land,
Response: DEVASTATION OR DESTRUCTION WITHIN YOUR BORDERS.
Minister: You shall call your walls Salvation,
Response: AND YOUR GATES PRAISE.
Minister: The sun shall be no more your light by day,
Response: NOR FOR BRIGHTNESS SHALL THE MOON GIVE LIGHT TO YOU BY NIGHT;
Minister: But the Lord will be your everlasting light,
Response: AND YOUR GOD WILL BE YOUR GLORY.
Minister: Your sun shall no more go down,
Response: NOR YOUR MOON WITHDRAW ITSELF;
Minister: For the Lord will be your everlasting light,
Response: AND YOUR DAYS OF MOURNING SHALL BE ENDED.

Minister: Let us unite in this historic confession of the Christian faith:

I BELIEVE IN GOD THE FATHER ALMIGHTY, MAKER OF HEAVEN AND EARTH;

AND IN JESUS CHRIST HIS ONLY SON, OUR LORD: WHO WAS CONCEIVED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT, BORN OF THE VIRGIN MARY, SUFFERED UNDER PONTIUS PILOT, WAS CRUCIFIED, DEAD AND BURIED: THE THIRD DAY HE ROSE FROM THE DEAD; HE ASCENDED INTO HEAVEN AND SITTETH AT THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD THE FATHER ALMIGHTY; FROM THENCE HE SHALL COME TO JUDGE THE QUICK AND THE DEAD.

I BELIEVE IN THE HOLY SPIRIT, THE HOLY CATHOLIC CHURCH, THE COMMUNION OF SAINTS, THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS, THE RESURRECTION OF THE BODY, AND THE LIFE EVERLASTING. AMEN

HOMECOMING!

Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost

October 13, 2002 Whitaker's Chapel United Methodist Church

And Jesus answered them, "Have faith in God.
Truly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain,
'Be taken up and cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart,
but believes that what he says will come to pass,
it will be done for him."
Mark 11:22-23

Gathering
The Light of Christ Enters Our Midst
Greeting, Announcements, and Mission Minute Beulah Perkins

* Call to Worship: *"Majesty, Worship His Majesty" (176)* Choir and Congregation
* Call to Worship:
Leader: Praise the Lord! O give thanks to the Lord,
for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever.
People: Who can utter the mighty doings of the Lord,
or declare all his praise?
Leader: Happy are those who observe justice,
who do righteousness at all times.
People: Remember me, O Lord, when you show favor to your people;
help me when you deliver them;
Leader: that I may see the prosperity of your chosen ones,
that I may rejoice in the gladness of your nation,
All: that I may glory in your heritage. Amen.

* Hymn: *"O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing" (57)*

Youth Message

DEDICATION OF WINDOWS

DECLARATION OF PURPOSE Pastor
Brothers and sisters in Christ, this is a day of rejoicing.
We have come together to consecrate these windows in this building
of Whitaker's Chapel United Methodist Church.
Let us open our hearts and minds to receive God's Word with faith.
May our blessed communion,
born of one baptism and nurtured at one table of the Lord,
become one temple of the Holy Spirit as we gather in love.

PRESENTATION OF THE WINDOWS Lay Leader and Trustees of the Church
We present these windows to be consecrated in this building
for the worship of God and the inspiration of all people.

CONSECRATION OF THE WINDOWS Pastor
Dear friends, rejoice that God so moved the hearts of people
so that these windows have been placed in this house
that has been built for praise and prayer.
Let us now consecrate the windows and celebrate their part in telling
the stories in the life and death of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.
Prayer
O eternal God, mighty in power and of incomprehensible majesty,
whom the heavens cannot contain,
whose light shines through these windows
proclaiming the message of love your Son has for each of us,
you have promised your special presence
whenever two or three are gathered in your name.
By the power of your Holy Spirit consecrate these windows
in your house of worship.

Response: Donors of the windows
Bless us and sanctify what we do here, as these windows are given
to your glory, Heavenly Father, in memory of loved ones,
and in honor of loved ones who love and serve you.

Response: Congregation
Save us from that failure of vision
which would confine our worship within these walls,
but send us out from here to be your servants in the world,
sharing the blessings of Christ with the world he came to redeem.

Now, O God, sanctify this place, and the new windows, Pastor
for everything in heaven and on earth is yours.
Yours, Lord, is the dominion, and you are exalted as head above all.

Special music: *"Bless This House, O Lord We Pray"* Choir

Prayer Concerns of the Church and Community, Morning Prayer

Collection of our Tithes and Offerings, Offertory
* Doxology, Prayer of Thanksgiving

Special Music: *"Resurrection Medley:"* Choir
"Hallelujah! We Shall Rise," "When the Roll is Called Up Yonder,"
"In The Sweet By and By"
"I'm One Day Nearer Home" Quartet

Scripture: *Genesis 1:1-3; 14-18; Matthew 3:13-17; 5:13-16*

Sermon: *"Tell Me the The Stories of Jesus"* Betty Boyd

WHITAKER'S CHAPEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Route 1, Pilot Mountain, North Carolina
Sunday, September 15, 1974, 9:45 A. M.

Margie Denny — Pianist
Arthur L. Chamblee, Jr. — Minister

Let the people bow in silent prayer and meditation upon entering the Sanctuary.

THE PRELUDE
THE INVOCATION
*HYMN OF PRAISE NO. 72: "This Is My Father's World"
*THE APOSTLES' CREED No. 512
*THE RESPONSIVE READING NO. 604, First Reading
*THE GLORIA PATRI
THE SCRIPTURE LESSON Exodus 4:1-5
THE PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER
CHURCH AND COMMUNITY INTERESTS
PRESENTATION OF GOD'S TITHES AND OUR GIFTS
THE OFFERTORY
*THE DOXOLOGY
SERMON STORY "BONES"
*HYMN OF PREPARATION NO. 70: "The Lord's My Shepherd"
THE SERMON "Grab The Snake By The Tale"
INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP
*HYMN OF DEDICATION NO. 337:
"Saviour Like A Shepherd Lead Us"
*THE BENEDICTION
*THE POSTLUDE
*The congregation will please stand.

BEGIN THE DAY WITH GOD

Every morning lean thine arms awhile
Upon the window-sill of heaven
And gaze upon thy Lord.
Then, with the vision in thy heart,
Turn strong to meet thy day.
--Author unknown.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15
9:45 Morning Worship Service
10:45 Church School.
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19
7:30 The United Methodist Women will meet in the Fellowship Hall.
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13--Sunday School and Church Picnic will be at Cumberland Knob Park. Make plans to attend.

WORLD COMMUNION SERVICE will be observed Sunday, October 6.

CHARGE CONFERENCE will be held on Tuesday, October 22 7:30, at Pilot Mountain.

MORNING WORSHIP SERVICES: September 29, 9:45 a. m.
October 6, 9:45 a. m.
17, 9:45 a. m.

PRAYER MEETINGS: October 3, 8:00 p. m.
17, 8:00 p. m.

A WORKSHP AT ROCKFORD STREET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH in Mt. Airy. There will be classes for church members and those who hold office in the local church. A class in UNITED METHODIST CHURCH DOCTRINE AND POLITY. Another class in CHURCH OFFICIALS AND THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES. The instructors are the Rev. George Thompson and the Rev. John Jordan. Today-Wed. 7:30 p.

Please see Mrs. Frances Flinchum for your subscriptio to TODAY. UNITED METHODISTS TODAY is the official general periodical of The United Methodist Church. Subscription price is $6.00 per year.

MEN ONLY!! Let's eat breakfast together. We could cook some eggs, bacon, toast, coffee and have a time of fellowship and talk about our church, its needs and joy. Could we do it? Talk about it!

Whitaker's Chapel United Methodist Church

Sunday Nov. 13, 1977 Eleven O'Clock

Bill Baldwin, Pastor

Margie Denny Pianist/Choir Director

* *

The Prelude

Invocation

Hymn of Praise "Saviour like a Shepherd lead us" # 337

Informal Moments

Moments of Praise and Testimony

Silent Prayer

Morning Prayer

Presentation of God's Tithes

The Offertory

* The Doxology

Anthem By Choir

Special Music Whitaker's Singing Group

Scripture and Sermon Pastor Bill

Altar Call for ALL Prayer

Hymn "Softly and Tenderly" # 239

* Benediction

* Postlude

* *

We welcome all of our visitors with us today. Our prayer is that the Holy Spirit of God will bless you.

Today Nov. 13, 1977
10:00 Sunday School
11:00 Worship and Praise Service

Sunday Nov. 20, 1977
10:00 Sunday School
11:00 Worship and Praise Service

* *

TOP ATTENDANCE/ Last Sunday Whitaker's had a total of 60 for Sunday School and more than that for worship service. Lets praise the Lord for this blessing of people. Keep laboring for the Lord. OUR NEW GOAL FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL WILL NOW BE 70.

CHOIR/ This past week the choir had around 15 to attend choir practice. We thank you for this interest in the choir....CONTINUE TO DO THIS EVERY WEEK.

The choir is still lacking people in the men's section. That means we need any MAN in our congregation that wants to do something for the Lord. After service I would like for 4 men to say, "Here I am Lord, send me." WILL YOU BE WILLING TO GIVE SO LITTLE TIME FOR THE LORD.

* *

GOD CARES FOR YOU

God cares for you very much. He really loves You. Some of you reading this right now are probably saying to yourself, "You are silly talking about God this way." Well, I might be silly, but that does not stop the love of God. Some may say,"I will get right with God some other day when I am ready." That day will never come; today is the day for Christ.

Gravesite of Mrs. Claude E. Jones

Buried Among the Laurel and the Ivy

Beloved Woman Passes to the Great Beyond

Mrs. Claude E. Jones, Beautiful Christian Character, Dies at Her Home in Liberty—Remains Interred at Whittakers, Near Pilot Mountain, Wednesday.

One of the saddest funerals the writer ever attended was at a little country church, three miles west of Pilot Mountain, known as Whittaker's Methodist church, Wednesday, May 4th, just after the noon hour.

Friends for miles around had gathered to pay their last sad respects to the memory of the late Mrs. Claude E. Jones, who had lived in that section when a girl but who at the time of her death was residing in Liberty. The remains were accompanied by a number of people from Liberty, Mr. C. E. Jones, the father and three children; Mr. and Mrs. Frank Peel, of Ramseur, Route 1; Mr. and Mrs. Durant Pell, of Ramseur; Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Stamey, of High Point; Mr. Blaine Forkner, of Roanoke, Va., Mrs. J. T. Herrin, of Camp Lustis, Va.; Dewey A. Herrin, Miss Sonia Forkner and Miss Annie Denny, of Winston; Miss Elmer Forkner, of Richmond, Va.; Mr. and Mrs. Jones,of Pilot Mountain; Miss Jamie Jones, of Mt. Airy, and several others whose names we cannot recall.

The funeral party was met at the station at Pilot Mountain by a large number of friends and members of the family of the deceased. Here the journey was taken up to the little white country church, where the remains were interred.

It was 12:30 o'clock when the services began and at this time the church was full to overflowing. Scores of beautiful floral designs accompanied the remains but as many more came from the hills, brought by friends of the families and they were just as pretty and we thought far more significant because they were wild nature's own offering. Unlike the beautiful hot house flowers they grew out in God's great open, protected only by the hillsides; strong and sturdy like the good people of their section. The old man, the young girl, the aged woman, the maiden with the blush of health upon her cheeks, all came and laid their pretty wreaths of flowers upon the pulpit stand and on benches, until all the available room around the pulpit was covered with sweet scented flowers.

The minister of the deceased, Rev. J. W. Combs, accompanied the remains from Liberty and preached the funeral. He had known Mrs Jones for several years and found in her a beautiful type of Christian characer. Rev. Mr. Combs read from the 90th Psalm, "I am the Resurrection and the life," etc., and from the 15th Chapter of Corinthians—the great resurrection sermon as he liked to call it. He paid a beautiful tribute to the deceased, saying, like Mary, she was a consecrated Christian, always about her Master's business and always seeking more of the Great Truth. A portion of the 14th chapter of St. Mark was also read in connection with the funeral. The preacher asked the congregation to bear with him as he tried to tell of the life and death of the deceased, whose loss he felt as keenly as the family. At times he would break down and could go no further for a short period, his emotions overwhelming him. "She hath done what she could," touchingly declared thespeaker, "and I am sure she is in glory today."

When he referred to little Dwight and Glenn Jones and the infant, Martha Maude, of only 10 days, who with the father were so sorely bereft, there was not a dry eye in the house; strong men and sympathetic women broke down and cried and the whole house was under an emotional spell.

After Mr. Combs closed, he asked if there was any one in the house who wanted to say a word. Mr. Herbert Smith, a loyal friend to the family, arose and between sobs and tears paid a beautiful tribute to the good woman who lay cold in death before the audience.

Mrs. Dr. Flippin, of Pilot Mountain, made a very pretty talk, but like the others finished with difficulty. She had known the deceased for years and also found in her a beautiful Christian character.

The casket was then opened and the friends and family looked upon the remains. It was a heartbreaking scene as the family gathered around to look for the last time upon the form of their loved one in this world.

The services were concluded at the grave, using the Methodist ritualistic service. The floral offerings covered the grave completelyand left many to place alongside the grave, so many were these testimonials of esteem sent.

The deceased was born October 29, 1893, and died May 2, 1921. She joined the Baptist church at the age of 14 and was married to Mr. C. E. Jones in 1910, after which she joined the church of her husband's faith, the Methodist Episcopal. Three children and husband survive, besides father, onebrother and sister, two half sisters and one half brother, besides numerous relatives to mourn their loss.

OUR DEPARTED

'LEST WE FORGET'
1950 to Present

Robert Bodford
Nora Cromer Branch
Verta Coleman
Robert Covington
Ruby Covington
Ernest Cox
Lois Bryant Cox
Betty Denny
Clay Denny
Curtis Denny
Gordon Denny
Lunda Denny
Lilla J. Denny
Kenneth Denny
Madge Denny
Margaret Denny
Phil Denny
Willis Denny
Carl B. Dodson
Mazie Dodson
Allen J. Flinchum
Lena R. Flinchum
Lula D. Flinchum
Sayde Flinchum
R.W. (Jack) Hill
Paul Holland
Treva Holland
Don Morgan
Ada Shelton
Charles Shelton
Daisy Shelton
General Shelton
Gerald Warde
Phyllis Warde
Gilmer Whitaker
Mary Holly Whitaker
Lucy S. Whitaker
Oscar G. Whitaker

Janie Reid, who has longest been a member of Whitaker Chapel, breaks ground for the new fellowship hall. (Staff Photo — Palmer)

Whitaker Chapel Breaks New Ground

Members of Whitaker Chapel Methodist Church gathered on a small plot of land behind the church late last Sunday afternoon to break ground for a fellowship hall.

As approximately 60 members looked on, the church's pastor Reverend Arthur Livengood, officiated over a brief ceremony, assisted by United Methodist Church Northeast District Superintendent Dr. Floyd Berrier.

After the ceremony, the person who had longest been a member of this church. Janie Reid, was given the honor of breaking the ground with the first shovel of dirt. She was followed and assisted in digging by the church' s youngest member, Malorie Belcher, and later by a number of church officials.

"We're excited," confirmed Rev. Livengood. "We began making plans for the building in December of last year. We're pleased with how quickly things have progressed. Drawings will be going to the building inspector tomorrow and we hope to begin construction shortly. We're hoping to have it finished by Christmas."

Church officials had wanted to raise half of the estimated $160,000 needed to finance the project before work began. According to the church finance committee, approximately $100,000 has now been raised and earmarked for building.

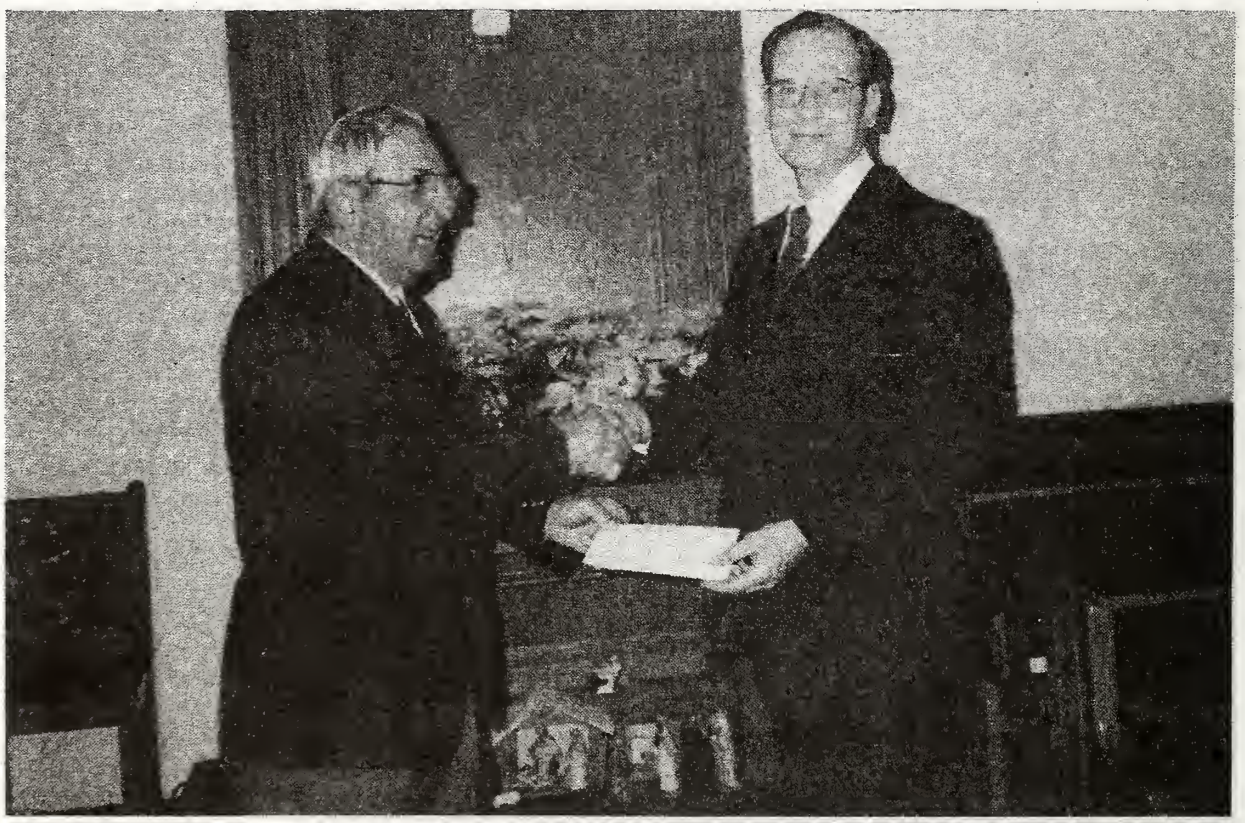
See CHAPEL, Page 2

Chapel from Page 1

Financing for the building has been garnered thanks to a fund drive among the membership and donations from friends.

Reverend Livengood explained that the new fellowship hall is much needed and will serve a variety of functions.

"This will really be our multipurpose building," he smiled.



The Reverend Livengood (left) presents a check for $18,000 from the Duke Endowment to church treasurer, Spencer Flinchum. (Photo provided)

Whitaker's Chapel United Methodist Church Receives $18,000 Duke Endowment Grant For Construction

PILOT MTN. — Whitaker's Chapel United Methodist Church has received a grant of $18,000 from the Duke Endowment to assist with the construction of a fellowship hall.

The Reverend Arthur Livengood, church pastor, said, "It will provide a place for our families for recreation and church activities. It will be a focal point of the life of this congregation and, we hope, for others who need a central place to meet and serve."

Completion of this project was due in large measure to the outstanding leadership of our pastor and our Building Committee, as well as the generous contributions of our congregation, friends, and the Duke Endowment Fund.

The new hall contains 2,774 square feet of space with seating for 165 people. Construction was completed on February 18 of this year. The building was designed to adapt to recreational and meeting space and will replace the existing fellowship hall will help achieve the goal. The Endowment's trustees recognize the scope of the project and have indicated their full support, with the intention to provide further funding."

Architect for the $190,000 project is Fred Williams of Lexington, NC. The Rev. Albert F. Fisher, director of the Endowment's Rural Church Division said, "We congratulate Whitaker's Chapel United Methodist Church for its vision, energy, and commitment. The Duke Endowment supports the church's efforts to extend outreach and ministry, and we are confident that their new fellowship hall will help achieve the goal. The Endowment's trustees recognize the scope of the project and have indicated their full support, with classrooms in the future.

Founded in 1924 by North Carolina industrialist James Buchanan Duke, the Duke Endowment is one of the nation's largest private foundations. Its assets total over $1.4 billion. The Endowment provides assistance to not-for-profit hospital and child-care institutions in North and South Carolina; to rural United Methodist churches and retired ministers in North Carolina; and to Davidson College, Duke, Furman, and Johnson C. Smith Universities.

MUSIC AT WHITAKER'S CHAPEL

'Make a Joyful Noise Unto the Lord"

Music is an important part of the worship service of any church.

Congregational singing provides everyone an opportunity to unite in praise to God. As Saint Paul once said; "To sing is to pray doubly."

Well chosen choir numbers and other special music provide unity and preparation for the sermon.

Whitaker's Chapel has been blessed by having volunteer members of the church to lead the music program, provide the choir voices and the accompaniment.

There were periods in our history when the church had no choir. During the late 1950's. the church had a youth choir consisting of twenty six members. The transition from the farm to city employment, deprived the small rural church of many younger members.

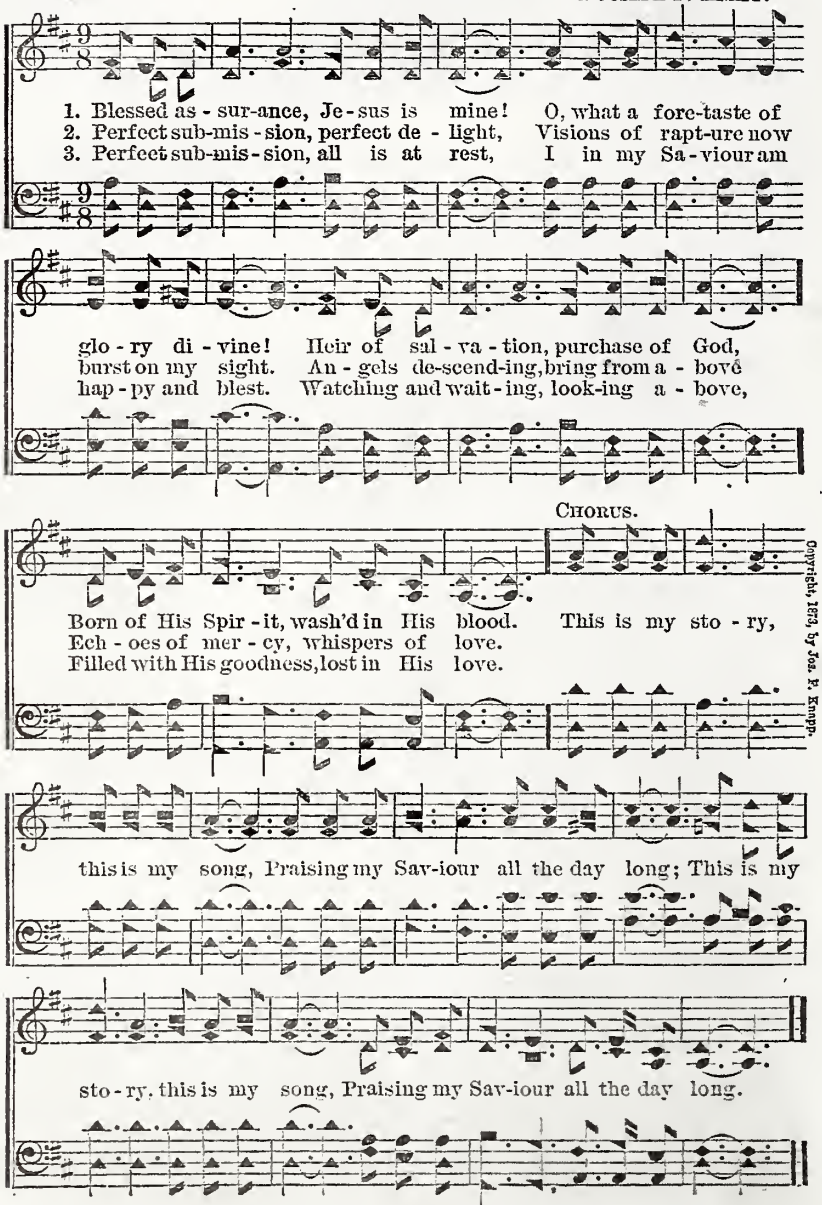
We are now blessed with an all volunteer adult choir. Our practice held each Wednesday evening provides a mid-week opportunity for fellowship, preparation of the music for the following Sunday worship service, and a time for prayer for the sick and other community needs.

'Serve the Lord with Gladness--Come Before His Presence with Singing."

No. 38. Blessed Assurance.

"He that believeth on me hath everlasting life."—JOHN. 6: 47.

FANNY J. CROSBY. MRS. JOSEPH F. KNAPP.



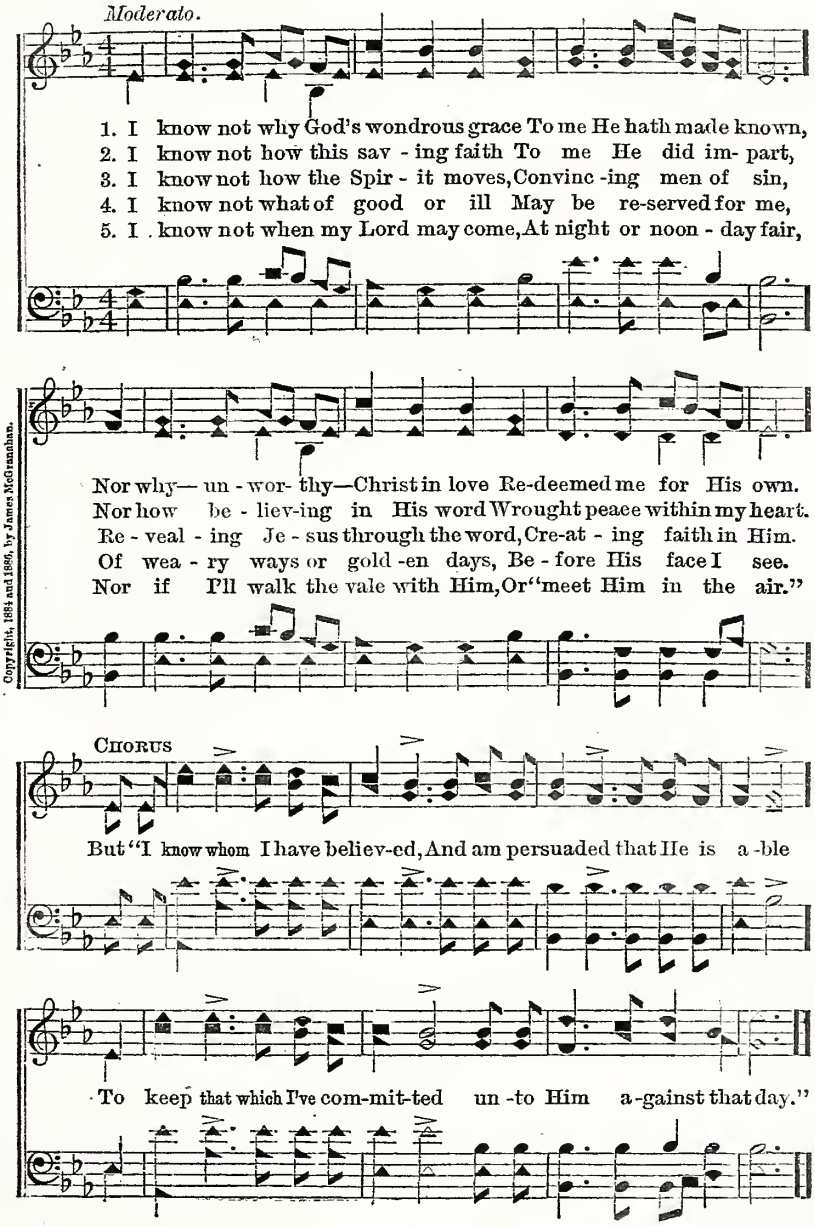
Copyright, 1874, by Jos. F. Knapp.

No. 5. I Know Whom I Have Believed.

2 Tim. 1: 12.

El. Nathan. James McGranahan.

Moderato.



Copyright, 1884 and 1886, by James McGranahan.

Dinner on the Grounds ca. 1954

A SHORT HISTORY OF WEBSTER'S CEMETERY

ALSO KNOWN AS

WHITAKER'S CHAPEL CEMETERY

Sometime in the first half of the nineteenth century, a local cemetery was created to serve the needs of the surrounding community. The land for the cemetery, approximately an acre in size, was donated by a member of the Webster family with the stipulation that as long as space was available there would be no monetary charge for any plot. Over time, it simply became known as the "free burying ground." A review of the cemetery survey conducted by Mr. Robert Carter during the summer of 2001 and the spring of 2002, reveals the oldest inscribed gravestone in the cemetery to be that of an infant daughter of Bryson and Emaline Stone Fulk who died on September 15, 1847.

Early in the twentieth century, a church was established on property adjacent to the cemetery. It was then named the Grassy Knob Methodist Episcopal Church, South, and was later renamed Whitaker's Chapel United Methodist Church in honor of Mr. Giles Whitaker one of the founders of the church. This church was to play an ever increasing role in the care of the cemetery. Oral tradition tells us that in the early years of the cemetery, the men of the community would gather once each year to clean the cemetery of unwanted growth, and it is fair to say that it did not have the groomed appearance that it has today.

No original deed conveying the cemetery lot from the Webster family has yet been discovered, however the search continues and no doubt will be found at a later date. In the ensuing years gifts of land bordering the original cemetery have been made to the Trustees of Whitaker's Chapel United Methodist Church. The first such gift was made by Armitta Flinchum, Henry Denny and wife and Luther Holland and wife to the Trustees of the Grassy Know Methodist Episcopal Church, South, later Whitaker's Chapel U.M.C. for the establishment of a church. This was followed by land donated by the heirs of Rex Smith in 1943, a donation by Mrs. D.J. Denny, Curtis and Helen Denny in 1949. a donation by J. Willis Denny in 1950, a land swap transaction took place in 1957 between the church which had inherited a nearby lot and Nero Bryant whose land adjoined the church proper, and in 1996 a donation of land bordering the cemetery by Mrs. Helen Denny. All of the foregoing land transfers were made to the Trustees of Whitaker's Chapel United Methodist Church.

In the summer of 2001, a survey of the cemetery was begun by Mr. Robert Carter and others to record the information displayed on each grave marker. This survey was completed in the spring of 2002. A recent survey of such information was done in the fall of 2008 to include interments made in the intervening interval. Both surveys are appended to this paper. We wish to conclude this short history of the cemetery with a note of gratitude to the members of Whitaker's Chapel United Methodist Church who over the years have given so much of their time and talents to the orderly maintenance of the cemetery as well as superb manner in which the appearance of the grounds are maintained.

Whitaker's Chapel United Methodist Church
Whitaker's Chapel Rd, Hwy 268, 2 m W of Pilot Mountain
Surry County, NC

Survey of cemetery was begun in summer of 2001 and completed in Spring of 2002. The

Married in parentheses Name	DOB Mo	Day	Yr	DOD Mo	Day	Yr	Notes
Adams, Emily E (Fulk)	05	07	1874	09	09	1896	w/o Lewis T Adams
Adams, George Wilson	04	18	1895	05	06	1905	s/o Lewis T Adams/Emily Fulk
Adams, Lewis T	12	12	1862	06	02	1919	h/o Emily E. Fulk
Adkins, James M	11	12	1798	06	19	1880	h/o Lurainy V.
Adkins, Lurainy V	10	13	1796	12	08	1878	w/o James M. Adkins
Albury, Jason Christopher	06	11	1983	04	03	2000	
Allen, Ethel (Chilton)	11	08	1921	06	18	1944	w/o Ira W Allen Sr
Allen Jr, Ira W	02	05	1941	06	06	1962	s/o Ira Allen/Ethel Chilton
Ayers, Russell G	12	12	1951	06	28	1952	
Baker, Charlie E	10	28	1928	05	19	1984	h/o Margie Baker;m.11-3-1948
Baker, Margie I	Private						w/o Charlie Baker
Baker, Wanda Gail	10	15	1960	10	22	1960	
Beck, Alvin Willie	08	17	1918	05	15	1998	
Beck, Annie	02	20	1873	11	13	1922	w/o John Beck
Beck, Claude Lee	07	03	1920	06	13	1996	
Beck, Esker	01	27	1897	02	11	1933	h/o Maggie B. Beck
Beck, Ethel O	06	25	1906	10	15	1968	w/o John Washington Beck
Beck, Harvey Lee	09	26	1933	12	03	1975	
Beck, Infant Son	04	01	1957	04	27	1957	Inf s/o Posie/Bertha G Beck
Beck, John Washington	05	22	1905	04	14	1984	h/o Ethel O. Beck
Beck, John	06	22	1869	12	31	1958	h/o Annie Beck
Beck, Maggie B	04	07	1899	07	24	1971	w/o Esker Beck
Beck, Paul E	09	07	1938	12	10	1958	s/o John W Beck/Ethel Beck
Beck, Roy Lee	private						h/o Sandra O'Neal
Beck, Sandra (O'Neal)	10	15	1963	07	18	1993	w/o Roy Lee Beck;m.8-25-1989
Bennett, Ada	05	18	1891	03	31	1927	w/o Dock Bennett
Bennett, Bular Mary	01	15	1912	11	11	1913	d/o Dock & Ada Bennett
Bennett, Coby	10	05	1923	10	19	1923	s/o Dock & Ada Bennett
Bennett, Dock	02	11	1891	08	12	1933	h/o Ada Bennett
Bobbitt, Lizzie	06	01	1903	02	23	1936	w/o Royce Bobbitt
Bobbitt, Royce	02	02	1902	12	13	1966	h/o Lizzie Bobbitt
Boyles, Emily (Fulk)	04	20	1841	11	28	1887	w/o James Boyles
Boyles, Henry Luther	07	14	1883	04	13	1885	s/o James Boyles/Emily Fulk
Boyles, James W	06	03	1856	12	02	1927	h/o Emily Fulk
Branch, Jessie Elmer	06	22	1902	03	14	1978	h/o Nora Lee Cromer
Branch, Nora Lee (Cromer)	03	14	1931	02	24	1973	w/o Jessie Elmer Branch
Bryant, Annie Mae (Beck)	06	26	1932	08	28	1996	w/o Omer Samuel Bryant
Bryant, Arlyss F	01	11	1931	08	13	1948	s/o Daniel F/Vena H Bryant
Bryant, Cindy (Easter)	private						w/o Wade William Bryant
Bryant, Clayton Wayne			1964			1934	
Bryant, David F	09	28	1898	01	01	1973	h/o Vena H. Bryant
Bryant, John Wesley	11	16	1867	04	15	1951	h/o Mary Edna Bryant
Bryant, Mary Edna	03	15	1876	04	15	1932	w/o John Wesley Bryant
Bryant, Omer Samuel	private						h/o Annie Mae Beck
Bryant, Ronnie Gray	10	09	1956	10	28	1999	d/o Omer S. Bryant/Annie Beck
Bryant, Ruth E	private						w/o Wade Odell Bryant
Bryant, Vena H	05	31	1905	03	10	1992	w/o Daniel F. Bryant
Bryant, Wade William	07	30	1943	10	23	1997	h/o Cindy Easter
Bryant, William Odell	12	07	1926	10	26	1991	h/o Ruth E. Bryant
Burge, Paul D	11	14	1908	11	19	1908	s/o E. T. & J. D. Burge
Campbell, Charlie W	07	27	1874	04	29	1928	h/o Sarah E. Campbell

Campbell, Infant Daug	04 17 1911	04 17 1911	Inf d/Charlie/Sarah Campbell
Campbell, Sarah E	01 13 1879	06 02 1919	w/o Charlie W. Campbell
Casstevens, Ineze B	08 09 1909	01 08 1989	w/o John H. Casstevens
Casstevens, John H	06 20 1904	05 25 1989	h/o Ineze B. Casstevens
Chandler, Charles L	09 04 1872	11 28 1951	h/o Jannie A. Chandler
Chandler, Eliza	06 20 1872	04 18 1911	d/o Joseph G/Sallie Chandler
Chandler, Eliza	08 22 1846	12 21 1882	w/o Joseph W. Chandler
Chandler, Grover Lee	05 10 1907	06 21 1908	s/o John Chandler/Laura Heath
Chandler, Infant Daug	02 22 1905	02 22 1905	d/o Joseph G/Sallie Chandler
Chandler, James Robert	11 09 1915	09 02 1934	s/o John Chandler/Laura Heath
Chandler, Jannie A	05 09 1877	05 24 1962	w/o Charles L. Chandler
Chandler, John Preston	07 20 1883	06 29 1945	h/o Laura Heath
Chandler, Joseph G	11 14 1863	06 17 1931	h/o Sallie E. Chandler
Chandler, Joseph W	04 09 1825	1885	h/o Eliza Chandler
Chandler, Laura (Heath)	04 03 1885	11 16 1979	w/o John Preston Chandler
Chandler, Martha Jane	01 15 1864	05 10 1938	
Chandler, Mary E	04 01 1881	04 07 1881	
Chandler, Mary Jane	10 02 1923	10 02 1923	d/o John Chandler/Laura Heath
Chandler, Mary L	12 08 1881		no DOD
Chandler, Sallie E	07 25 1885	04 10 1934	w/o Joseph G. Chandler
Chandler, Wilson	05 24 1844	11 03 1918	
Chilton, Drue G	1895	1928	h/o Mary Denny
Chilton, Ethel N	03 06 1931	01 10 1954	
Chilton, Infant Son	1919	1919	s/o Drue Chilton/Mary Denny
Chilton, Infant Son	1925	1925	s/o Drue Chilton/Mary Denny
Chilton, Mary (Denny)	04 22 1900	08 09 1990	w/o Drue G. Chilton
Coins, Della M	private		w/o Edward L. Coins
Coins, Edward L	private		h/o Della M. Coins
Collins, Dennis Ray	1969	1992	iron stake
Covington, Robert James	07 19 1922	02 19 1999	h/o Ruby Chilton
Covington, Ruby (Chilton)	07 23 1928	04 01 1998	w/o Robert James Covington
Cox, Betty (Hester)	12 18 1915	01 10 1916	d/o John Edd Cox/Lizy Heath
Cox, Carrie F	1861	1932	w/o Eli Cox
Cox, Eliza	1854	1918	h/o Carrie F. Cox
Cox, Ernest	02 07 1914	12 03 1986	h/o Lois Bryant
Cox, Ida Collins)	03 27 1895	08 21 1971	w/o Joseph Claud Cox
Cox, Infant Son	1907	1907	s/o John Edd Cox & Lizy Heath
Cox, Jesse James	03 24 1950	06 01 1978	f/o Roy James Cox
Cox, John Edd	1885	1949	h/o Lizy Heath
Cox, John Harvey	02 07 1911	02 08 2001	h/o Ocie L. Cox
Cox, Joseph Claud	11 05 1902	05 07 1930	h/o Ida Collins
Cox, Lizy (Heath)	1888	1943	w/o John Edd Cox
Cox, Lois (Bryant)	06 05 1915	07 20 1957	w/o Ernest Cox
Cox, Ocie L	private		w/o John Harvey Cox
Cox, Roy James	05 24 1917	01 12 1978	s/o Jesse Cox/Cpl-USArmy WWII
Cox, Willie L	02 29 1924	10 07 1966	s/o Ernest Cox & Lois Bryant
Criscoe, Mary E (Fulk)	02 17 1890	10 25 1918	w/o Edward Criscoe
Cunningham, Lula Mae	1915	1944	
Denny, Alice J	03 15 1891	09 09 1894	d/o David J/Rebecca Ann Denny
Denny, Betsy	02 1838	07 1925	
Denny, Betty (Dodson)	09 09 1899	07 27 1993	w/o John Willis Denny
Denny, Chester Elmer	07 30 1898	01 01 1906	s/o David Denny/Delila Canter
Denny, Chester Lee	1907	1984	s/o William Denny/Mary E Webb
Denny, Cora (Sechriest)	05 08 1898	06 13 1984	w/o John Robert Denny
Denny, Curtis H	01 07 1917	05 10 1995	h/o Helen S. Denny
Denny, David J	11 30 1861	03 06 1948	h/o (1) Rebecca Denny & (2) Delila Canter
Denny, Delila (Canter)	05 22 1878	09 20 1959	2nd w/o David J. Denny
Denny, Donna Lynn	01 29 1960	1960	d/o Curtis H/Helen S. Denny
Denny, E Yancy	12 18 1871	09 10 1956	h/o Ellen L. Denny

Denny, Ellen L	06	11	1874	12	15	1948	w/o E. Yancy Denny
Denny, Franklin D	02	21	1935	03	29	1975	Sp3, US Army-Korea
Denny, Gordon	05	27	1880	08	29	1967	h/o Lilla Jones
Denny, Helen S	private						w/o Curtis H. Denny
Denny, Infant Daugh	09	19	1932	09	19	1932	d/o John W Denny/Betty Dodson
Denny, Infant Son	08	01	1918	08	01	1918	s/o John W Denny/Betty Dodson
Denny, Infant Son	10	11	1933	10	11	1933	s/o John W Denny/Betty Dodson
Denny, Infants							Infs of E.Y. & Ellen Denny
Denny, John Robert	01	14	1898	04	23	1991	h/o Cora Sechriest
Denny, John Willis	10	27	1887	02	18	1976	h/o Betty Dodson
Denny, Kenneth Jones	10	14	1910	08	13	1986	blank stone next to grave
Denny, Lilla (Jones)	12	01	1884	09	27	1975	w/o Gordon Denny
Denny, Martha E	07	01	1882	05	27	1903	
Denny, Marthy A	10	07	1833	04	04	1914	
Denny, Mary Ellen (Webb)	01	29	1876	02	22	1962	w/o William M. Denny
Denny, Mary L	10	12	1896	08	13	1897	
Denny, Minnie E	04	21	1894	11	21	1894	
Denny, Rebecca Ann	12	30	1865	02	10	1896	1st w/o David J. Denny
Denny, Seymore Fern	11	01	1908	10	29	1998	s/o David Denny/Delila Canter
Denny, Squire T	12	01	1879	05	12	1901	
Denny, William M	05	08	1875	01	08	1914	h/o Mary Ellen Webb
Dodson, Carleton B	06	15	1903	05	06	1965	h/o Mazie C. Dodson
Dodson, John Edd	04	06	1866	02	10	1931	h/o Sarah Stamey
Dodson, Mazie C	01	21	1909	03	02	2000	w/o Carl B. Dodson
Dodson, Ray	02	09	1902	07	20	1989	
Dodson, Sarah (Stamey)	09	14	1871	08	06	1921	w/o John Edd Dodson
Duchek, James	private						h/o Mae Roxie Duchek
Duchek, Mae Roxie	08	24	1924	01	05	1995	w/o James Duchek
Flinchum, Amanda (Fulk)	07	11	1858	10	12	1939	w/o James H. Flinchum
Flinchum, Amitta	01	02	1834	02	10	1920	w/o William Flinchum
Flinchum, Doris E			1921			1962	d/o Robert A/Winnie Flinchum
Flinchum, Infant Son	08	26	1925	08	26	1925	s/o F. R. & Minnie Flinchum
Flinchum, James H	10	20	1860	01	16	1916	h/o Amanda Fulk
Flinchum, Letha E	04	12	1864	02	01	1923	d/o William & Amitta Flinchum
Flinchum, Robert A			1893			1979	h/o Winnie B. Flinchum
Flinchum, Sarah A	07	29	1838	02	14	1922	w/o J. W. R. Flinchum
Flinchum, Sayde (Jones)	02	13	1895	07	01	1989	w/o Allen Jones Flinchum, Sr
Flinchum, William	12	13	1840	08	07	1916	
Flinchum, William	09	12	1932	10	30	1880	h/o Amitta Flinchum
Flinchum, Winnie B			1898			1958	w/o Robert A. Flinchum
Flinchum Sr, Allen Jones	10	07	1905	11	11	1976	h/o Sadye Jones
Fulk, Ada A	09	06	1892	07	23	1933	
Fulk, Archie	09	02	1896	12	29	1896	s/o S. W. Fulk & Drucilla
Fulk, Augusta J (Stone)	10	17	1860	05	27	1936	w/o Martain A. Fulk
Fulk, Bryson	04	15	1824	11	01	1904	h/o Emaline Stone
Fulk, Carleton E	private						h/o Elah B., m. 7-9-1937
Fulk, David E	12	27	1860	09	13	1862	s/o Bryson Fulk/Emaline Stone
Fulk, David L	09	04	1907	03	13	1995	h/o Mary J. Stone
Fulk, David S	07	15	1871	09	20	1887	s/o Wilson Fulk/Mary Flippin
Fulk, Elah B	09	15	1918	01	12	2002	w/o Carleton Fulk; m.7-9-1937
Fulk, Elizabeth (Stone)	05	11	1881	05	11	1912	w/o Joel Edgar Fulk
Fulk, Ella (Barnes)	09	07	1881	03	23	1973	w/o Sidney H. Fulk
Fulk, Emaline J (Stone)	07	02	1826	01	24	1903	w/o Bryson Fulk
Fulk, Emma J	08	27	1893	08	27	1893	d/o Nathaniel J. Fulk & Martha Taylor
Fulk, Frances C	12	03	1852	08	29	1862	d/o Bryson Fulk/Emaline Stone died of diptheria
Fulk, George A	03	25	1910	01	22	2000	h/o Ruby J. Fulk
Fulk, Giles Wesley	08	13	1928	01	13	1929	s/o John Wesley Fulk/Nora Ella Whitaker

Fulk, Howard Lee			1915			1932	s/o John Wesley Fulk/Nora Ella Whitaker
Fulk, Hulda J (McGee)	07	28	1876	05	03	1915	w/o Simon Henderson Fulk
Fulk, Infant Daug	05	13	1903	05	13	1903	d/o Joel Fulk/Elizabeth Stone
Fulk, Infant Daug	05	02	1915	05	02	1915	d/o Simon H. Fulk/Hulda McGee
Fulk, Infant Daug	09	15	1847	09	15	1847	d/o Bryson Fulk/Emaline Stone
Fulk, Infant Son	08	??	1858	04	??	1859	s/o Joel Fulk/Emaline Stone
Fulk, Infant Son	05	02	1915	05	02	1915	s/o Simon H. Fulk/Hulda McGee
Fulk, Infant Son							s/o King S Fulk/Lamecie
Fulk, J. E.	07	??	1890	11	22	1909	
Fulk, Joel Ed	05	07	1881	11	14	1940	h/o Bettie Stone
Fulk, Joel	12	15	1820	05	23	1895	h/o Mary Polly Stone
Fulk, John Wesley	06	30	1878	02	03	1952	h/o Nora Ella Whitaker
Fulk, Joseph W	10	25	1850	08	24	1862	s/o Bryson Fulk
Fulk, King S			1880			1935	h/o Lamecie F. Fulk
Fulk, Lamecie F			1885			1917	w/o King S. Fulk
Fulk, Lee M	02	02	1859	09	09	1862	d/o Bryson Fulk/Emaline Stone died of diptheria
Fulk, Lee M	12	02	1901	09	06	1902	s/o Bryson Fulk
Fulk, Lillie E	12	18	1894	08	28	1958	w/o Andrew Hales?
Fulk, Luther J	06	30	1892	06	30	1892	s/o Nathaniel J. Fulk & Martha Ann Taylor
Fulk, Martain A	08	29	1861	12	16	1936	h/o Augusta J. Stone
Fulk, Martha Ann (Taylor)	09	27	1857	04	27	1938	w/o Nathaniel J. Fulk
Fulk, Mary J. (Stone)	09	23	1905				w/o David L. Fulk (no dates)
Fulk, Mary Polly (Stone)	08	14	1820	12	20	1901	w/o Joel Fulk
Fulk, MaryAnn Taylor(Flippin)	11	24	1834	07	22	1926	w/o Wilson Fulk
Fulk, Melissa Ann	09	01	1856	09	11	1862	d/o Bryson Fulk/Emaline Stone died of diptheria
Fulk, Nathaniel J	10	05	1854	07	22	1924	h/o Martha Ann Taylor
Fulk, Nora Ella (Whitaker)	11	08	1882	01	05	1965	w/o John Wesley Fulk
Fulk, Raymond U	05	16	1900	12	15	1900	s/o Joel Fulk/Elizabeth Stone
Fulk, Ruby J	06	13	1909				w/o George A. Fulk
Fulk, Sidney Henderson	11	02	1868	10	26	1947	h/o Ella Barnes
Fulk, Squire W	06	10	1879	02	02	1881	
Fulk, Wesley A			1852	09	??	1864	s/o Joel Fulk/MaryPolly Stone
Fulk, Wilson	10	06	1826	08	21	1896	h/o Mary Ann Taylor Flippin
Fulk, Wilson	07	??	1858	04	??	1859	s/o Joel Fulk/Mary Stone
Goins, Ellen Marie	05	18	1929	02	21	1993	d/o John Abe Goins Sr.
Goins, Martha Ellen	07	13	1884	05	15	1944	w/o John Abe Goins Sr.
Goins Sr, John Abe	02	27	1883	01	10	1947	h/o Martha Ellen Goins
Hall, Richard F	private						h/o Thelma M. Hall
Hall, Thelma M	private						w/o Richard F. Hall
Heath, Infant Daug	08	27	1896	08	19	1897	d/o J. H. Heath/L. J. Heath
Heath, Infant Daug	04	09	1900	04	09	1900	d/o J. H. Heath/L. J. Heath
Heath, Johnnie Lee			1951			1951	
Hill, R. W. "Jack"	11	02	1925	03	02	1994	h/o Virginia F. Hill
Hill, Virginia F	private						w/o R. W. "Jack" Hill
Holland, Paul	05	10	1911	12	28	1994	
Hunt, Ada (Whitaker)	03	10	1879	10	06	1904	w/o J.E. Hunt/d/o Giles Whitaker & Lucy Adkins
Hunt, Lucy (Ashburn)	10	02	1881	03	05	1968	w/o W. Sam Hunt
Hunt, W. Sam	05	12	1882	06	03	1908	h/o Lucy Ashburn
Johnson, Eliza	04	05	1816	07	08	1902	w/o Henry Johnson
Jones, Claude E	03	20	1888	06	04	1962	h/o (1)Maude Pell & (2) Flora Fogleman
Jones, Flora (Fogleman)	12	19	1894	09	27	1986	2nd w/o Claude E. Jones
Jones, Hester W	01	20	1866	07	10	1932	w/o Joseph F. Jones
Jones, Joseph F	11	26	1860	04	10	1931	h/o Hester W. Jones
Jones, Maude (Pell)	10	29	1893	05	02	1921	1st w/o Claude E. Jones

Jordan, Mary (Webster)	09	23	1868	02	05	1949 w/o James Robert Jordan
Key, Caleb A	01	23	1871	05	02	1945 h/o Virginia F. Key (Fulk??)
Key, Cora	01	15	1896	10	16	1956 w/o Robert William Key
Key, Robert William	12	10	1895	05	15	1956 h/o Cora Flinchum
Key, Virginia F	11	26	1875	01	19	1948 w/o Caleb A. Key
Lawson, Moir Ray	04	12	1929	01	14	1982 h/o Polly Ann Lawson
Lawson, Polly Ann	private					w/o Moir Ray Lawson
Marion, Austin Lee	04	12	1992	04	12	1992
Midkiff, James E	01	10	1923	03	20	1923 s/o W. E. & Pearl Midkiff
Moser, Ethel (Nelson)	private					w/o Willie E. Moser
Moser, Willie E	02	27	1927	08	24	1987 h/o Ethel Nelson
Moss, Josephine (Wagner)	07	21	1918	04	01	1988
Myers, Fleta (Bryant)	private					w/o Hobert Myers;m.11-20-1945
Myers, Hobert Lee	04	20	1915	01	02	1991 h/o Fleta Bryant;m.11-20-1945
Myers, Vena Darlene	03	29	1956	01	19	1999 d/o Hobert Myers/Fleta Bryant
Nations, Michael Ray	03	12	1952	04	19	1997
Nelson, Ruby (Inman)	07	24	1930	09	23	1970
Nixon, Laura F	12	31	1880	09	06	1946 w/o Walter A. Nixon
Nixon, Lucy J	04	30	1863	06	08	1928 w/o W. E. Nixon
Nixon, Pearl	04	12	1920	12	14	1922 d/o Walter A/Laura F. Nixon
Nixon, W. E.	02	04	1872	11	19	1922 h/o Lucy J. Nixon
Nixon, Walter A	11	29	1878	09	10	1963 h/o Laura F. Nixon
Nunn, Bessie			1897			1950 m/o Magalene Nunn
Nunn, Magalene			1921			1937 d/o Bessie Nunn
Peele, Minnie (Denny)	11	??	1906	12	??	1938 w/o Luther Peele
Pratt, Charlie David	10	26	1885	06	01	1971 h/o Lizzie Mae Pratt
Pratt, Julius	06	01	1916	06	01	1916 d/o Charlie David/Lizzie Pratt; twin to June
Pratt, June	06	01	1916	06	01	1916 s/o Charlie David/Lizzie Pratt; twin to Julius
Pratt, Lizzie Mae	01	07	1884	04	07	1968 w/o Charlie David Pratt
Redmon, Lillie L (Cox)	07	01	1919	07	07	1995
Scott, Dorothy B	private					w/o Jackie W. Scott
Scott, Jackie W	11	03	1929	01	03	1999 h/o Dorothy B. Scott
Sechriest, Adeson	03	22	1849	07	24	1910 h/o Martha Adeline Sechriest
Sechriest, Martha Adeline	07	08	1849	12	10	1926 w/o Adeson Sechriest
Seitz, George J	06	04	1901	05	09	1991 h/o Rose M. Seitz
Seitz, Rose M	05	05	1901	09	25	1989 w/o George J. Seitz
Shelton, Ada (Willard)			1902			1995 w/o Charles B. Shelton
Shelton, Charles B			1896			1976 h/o Ada Willard
Shelton, Daisy W	04	01	1904	05	09	1988 w/o General H. Shelton
Shelton, Eugene Burton	10	01	1921	04	12	1931 s/o Charles B. Shelton & Ada Willard
Shelton, General H	11	24	1894	03	09	1963 h/o Daisy W. Shelton
Shelton, Henry	05	01	1870	04	03	1962 h/o Mollie L. Shelton
Shelton, Herbert G			1928			1987
Shelton, Mamie L	private					w/o Robert Henry Shelton
Shelton, Mollie L	01	22	1872	05	16	1939 w/o Henry Shelton
Shelton, Robert Henry	03	08	1925	09	18	1984 h/o Mamie L. Shelton; s/o General H. & Daisy W. Shelton
Smith Sr, William Ernest	05	30	1901	03	11	1987 Mason
Sprinkle, Clyde R	09	12	1917	03	16	1940 s/o James H/Nannie E Sprinkle
Sprinkle, Ila (Bryant)	01	07	1918	03	14	1988 w/o Leonard Glenn Sprinkle
Sprinkle, James H	12	25	1880	07	01	1955 h/o Nannie E. Sprinkle
Sprinkle, Marie B	private					w/o Leonard R. Sprinkle
Sprinkle, Nannie E	11	05	1882	02	21	1949 w/o James H. Sprinkle
Stewart, Bessie	03	01	1896	04	05	1896 d/o General Jackson & Virginia Etta Stewart
Stewart, Cumie Ola	03	23	1904	05	28	1905 d/o General Jackson & Virginia Etta Stewart

Stewart, General Jackson	12	06	1868	01	11	1938 h/o Virginia Etta Stewart
Stewart, Geneva (Bryant)	private					w/o Walter Raleigh Stewart; m. 11-2-1940
Stewart, Infant Daug	05	03	1912	05	12	1912 d/o General Jackson & Virginia Etta Stewart
Stewart, Infant Daug	04	05	1899	04	05	1899 d/o General Jackson & Virginia Etta Stewart
Stewart, Virginia Etta	02	28	1878	06	20	1962 w/o General Jackson Stewart
Stewart, Walter Raleigh	05	28	1920	12	08	1995 h/o Geneva Bryant; m. 11-2-1940
Thomas, Harry James	private					h/o Sue Covington
Thomas, Sue (Covington)	09	28	1953	09	22	1999 w/o Harry James Thomas
Wagner, Bobby G	12	28	1933	05	08	1996 s/o Roba A./Eveline S. Wagner
Wagner, Brady Martin	08	12	1895	04	03	1960 h/o Lora Cox
Wagner, Eveline S	private					w/o Roba A Wagner
Wagner, Grady M	03	11	1940	04	09	1992 h/o Wanda Holyfield
Wagner, Lora (Cox)	04	21	1895	01	07	1985 w/o Brady Martin Wagner
Wagner, Margie			1914			1957 d/o B. M. Wagner/Lora Wagner
Wagner, Roba A	08	20	1916	03	16	1995 h/o Eveline S. Wagner
Wagner, Wanda (Holyfield)	private					w/o Grady M. Wagner
Warde, Gerald A	08	14	1921	10	28	1996 h/o Phyllis B. Warde
Warde, Phyllis B	02	13	1923	07	06	1999 w/o Gerald A. Warde
Webster, C. J.	08	07	1845	08	23	1916 h/o Sallie C. Webster
Webster, Elizabeth	01	22	1874	08	20	1974 w/o Samuel Webster
Webster, Sallie C	07	29	1844	07	29	1904 w/o C. J. Webster
Webster, Samuel	03	20	1873	02	25	1903 h/o Elizabeth Webster
Webster, Totten H				08	10	1937 Pvt,119thInf.30th Div.WW I
Whitaker, Aaron Dee Madison	12	07	1864	12	14	1891 h/o Alice Samantha Boyles
Whitaker, Aaron	02	02	1841	01	16	1877 h/o Melissa A. Stone
Whitaker, Doctor J	05	25	1866	07	28	1871 s/o Aaron Whitaker & Melissa A. Stone
Whitaker, Giles	04	04	1843	04	06	1920 h/o Lucy Adkins
Whitaker, Gilmer S				09	21	1922 h/o Lucy Leigh Shelton
Whitaker, Lucy A (Boyles)						w/o William Franklin Whitaker
Whitaker, Lucy C (Adkins)	05	15	1838	04	13	1906 2nd w/o Giles Whitaker
Whitaker, Lucy Leigh(Shelton)	07	13	1928	07	29	1999 w/o Gilmer S Whitaker
Whitaker, M. A.	12	26	1828	10	31	1891 w/o Aaron Whitaker
Whitaker, Mary A (Hunt)	02	24	1869	10	17	1905 1st w/o Giles Whitaker
Whitaker, Mary Aylmer	05	30	1876	08	07	1880 d/o Giles Whitaker & Lucy Adkins
Whitaker, Mary Holly	09	02	1907	04	03	1977 w/o Oscar Gentry Whitaker
Whitaker, Melissa A (Stone)	12	26	1828	10	31	1891 w/o Aaron Whitaker
Whitaker, Oscar Gentry	08	25	1907			h/o Mary Holly Whitaker
Whitaker, Renie (Ashburn)			1877			1946 3rd w/o Giles Whitaker
Whitaker, William (Franklin)	04	19	1867	07	29	1894 h/o Lucy A. Boyles
Whittington, Clara			1883			1905 m/o Earl F. Whittington
Whittington, Earl F	05	01	1901	07	11	1901
Young, Rene A			1937			1987

ADDITIONS TO CEMETERY INVENTORY
2002-2008

Name	*Born*	*Died*
Beck, Bertha Mae	*3-15-1923*	*7-28-2003*
Beck, John D.	*3-5-1934*	*12-13-2006*
Bodford, Robert	*5-8-1931*	*11-16-2005*
Collins, Patsy M.	*6-26-1947*	*4-26-2004*
Cox, Ocie	*7-21-1914*	*4-20-2006*
Denny, Margaret F.	*1-31-1912*	*4-18-2006*
Floyd, John D.	*8-14-1926*	*1-15-2003*
Fulk, Mary J. Stone	*9-23-1905*	*1-15-2004*
Fulk, Ruby J.	*6-13-1909*	*9-28-2004*
Holland, Treva Taylor	*3-4-1916*	*4-23-2005*
Morgan, Don	*10-31-1937*	*1-31-2004*
Pike, Martha J.	*10-24-1947*	*10-21-2003*
Southern, Daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth	*6-13-2003*	*6-15-2003*
Smith, William E. Jr.	*8-8-1927*	*7-28-2007*
Sprinkle, James D.	*8-4-1944*	*5-7-2007*
Whitaker, Gilmer	*4-6-1920*	*12-20-2006*
Whitaker, Oscar G.	*8-25-1907*	*12-19-2000*

BURIAL TRADITIONS

As previously mentioned in the Church History, until the mid-twentieth century, tradition dictated that the men of the community perform a final demonstration of respect for their deceased neighbor or friend.

Upon learning of a death within the community, a responsible person would ring the church bell a prescribed number of times which would convey to all within hearing distance that a death had occurred and that they were needed to assist with the preparation of the gravesite.

In most cases, burial would have to take place the day following death because of the lack of mortuary services as we know them today. It was also not uncommon for the men of the community to construct the coffin and/or a wooden box for the burial of the deceased. Ladies were known to join together to bathe, dress and prepare the deceased female neighbor for burial.

The last time men of the community prepared a grave using their own tools occurred in 1946. Mrs. Rena Whitaker, the widow of Giles Whitaker requested that upon her death her former neighbors and friends carry out this tradition for her burial. Her body was transported to Whitaker's Chapel from Liberty, North Carolina where she had passed away. Mr. J. W. Denny Jr. currently eighty seven years of age remembers well helping to dig her grave and also assisted with the closing of the grave. This was a fitting farewell for a much loved member of the community.

Traditional Burial—1920's

AN EVENING AT WHITAKER'S CHAPEL

Of

SACRED HARP-SHAPE NOTE MUSIC

PROGRAM

Opening Welcome	*Rev. David Raiford, Pastor*
Introductory Remarks	*Mrs. Linda Covington*
Comments on Sacred Harp Four Note Music	*Mrs. Linda Covington*
Recorded Four Note Sacred Harp Music	
Teaching of the "Beauty of Shape Note Music	*Mrs. Margie Denny*
"Do-Re-Mi" from the Sound of Music	*Mrs. Sue Marion*

Shape Note Singing (Audience Participation)

"An Old-Fashioned Singing"

"Nothing But the Blood"
"Amazing Grace"
"O For a Thousand Tongues"
"To God be the Glory"
"The Old Rugged Cross"
"When All God's Singers Get Home"

Closing Devotion	*Mrs. Beulah Perkins*

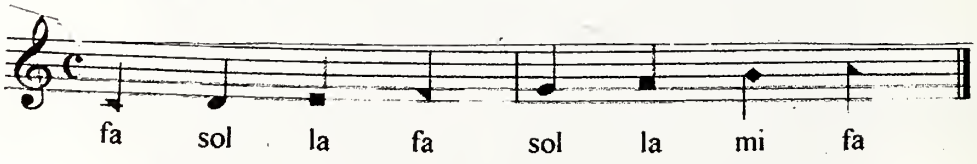
"AN EVENING AT WHITAKER'S CHAPEL"
of
SACRED HARP-SHAPE NOTE MUSIC

The congregation of Whitakers Chapel United Methodist Church extends a warm welcome to each of you this evening as we present a program of Sacred Harp-Shape Note music as a part of our continuing celebration of the 100th anniversary of the founding of our church.

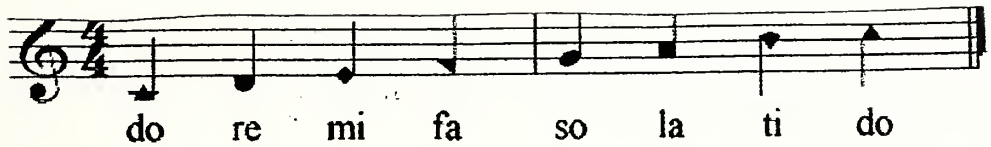
Before we examine a short history of shape note music, it would be helpful to understand just what is shape note music? The idea behind shape notes is that the parts of a vocal work can be learned more quickly and easily if the music is printed in shapes that match up with the solfege syllables with which the notes of the musical scale are sung.

Essentially, it is a tradition of rural American sacred music, which is marked by the use of a notational system in which differently shaped notes used for different pitches enabled a beginner to recognize pitches from the note head shapes without having to learn the names of keys or lines and spaces.

The first shape-notation to gain acceptance, at the beginning of the 19th century, was based on a four syllable system. While the practice of substituting symbols for conventional musical notes has a history stretching back as far as the year 1000 A.D. with the work of one Guido of Arezzo, and others, and in America during the 17th century by the early English colonists, its wider acceptance and use can be traced to the year 1801 with the publication called "The Easy Instructor" by William Little and William Smith and in 1803 the publication of "The Musical Primer" by Andrew Law. These books were widely used in "singing schools." The four note notation system was widely referred to as "fasola" because it was based on the syllables fa, sol, la and mi. It was also sometimes known as "character', "patent" or "buckwheat." In time this shape note hymnody became known as "Sacred Harp" singing with the advent in 1844 of a collection of sacred music known as the "Sacred Harp" using the four shape system compiled by B. J. White and E. J. King. They regarded the human voice as the sacred harp. An illustration of the four shape note scale is shown below:



By the middle of the 19th century, the "fa,so,la" system of four syllables had acquired a major rival, namely the seven-syllable "do, re, mi" system. The music compilers began to add three more shapes to their books to match the extra syllables. Numerous seven shape notations were devised. Jesse B. Aiken was the first to produce a book with a seven shape note system, and he vigorously defended his "invention" and his patent. The system used in Aiken's 1846 Christian Minstrel eventually became the standard. An illustration of the seven shape note scale is shown below:



Shape notes proved popular in America and quickly a wide variety of hymnbooks were prepared making use of them. The use of shape notes waned in the northeastern United States, but in the South, the shapes became well entrenched and multiplied into a variety of traditions. Ananias Davisson's Kentucky Harmony is generally considered the first Southern shape note tunebook.

Although seven-shape books may not be as popular as in the past, there are still a great number of churches in the South, in particular Primitive Baptist and the Church of Christ, that regularly use seven-shape songbooks in Sunday worship. These songbooks contain a variety of songs from the 18th century classics to 20th century gospel music. Thus today denominational songbooks printed in seven-shapes probably constitute the largest branch of the shape note tradition.

In addition, nondenominational community singings are held which feature only early to mid-20th century seven shape gospel music such as Stamps-Baxter hymnals or Heavenly Highway. In these traditions, the custom of "singing the notes" is generally only preserved during the learning process at singing schools and singing may be to an instrumental accompaniment, typically a piano.

The seven shape system is also still used at regular public singings of 19th century songbooks such as Christian Harmony and the New Harp of Columbia. Such singings are common in North Carolina, Tennessee and Alabama, and generally preserve the singing school custom of "singing the notes."

The four shape tradition that currently has the greatest number of participants is Sacred Harp singing. There are many other four shape traditions that are enjoying a resurgence of interest, such as the Southern Harmony which has remained in continuous use at one singing in Benton, Kentucky, and is now experiencing a modest growth.

The seven-shape system is commonly used by the Mennonites and Amish. Numerous songbooks are printed in shape notes for this market, and include such titles as, the Christian Hymnal, Zion's Praises, Pilgrim's Praises and Silver Gems in Song.

It is clear that the tradition of the use of shape note singing in Sunday worship formed an integral part of the rural American South for many, many years. Shape notes provided a method of teaching music to many who would otherwise not have experienced the joy of St. Paul's definition of singing, "to sing is to pray doubly." It is most likely that our congregation here at Whitaker's Chapel made great use of the shape note tradition in those early years. And so, here tonight, we will strive to bring back some of that great musical tradition known as "shape note singing." It is our hope that this evening's program will not only be enjoyable but will be a blessing to all.

'THE GILES WHITAKER TREE'
and
THE FOUNDING OF WHITAKER'S CHAPEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Presented to The Children's Vacation Bible School Class of Whitaker's Chapel United Methodist Church, August 10, 2008 by J.W. Denny Jr.

Purpose: The purpose of this outline is to provide suggested historical facts associated with this tree and the tree's relationship to the formation of Whitaker's Chapel United Methodist Church, which may be expanded upon as desired. The order of presentation is merely a suggested one, and no claim is made that the items listed for elaboration is complete, but rather is one that may lead to important facts which have been overlooked. The main outline for the presentation may be divided into the following two sections:

I. The History of the Mighty Oak Tree.

II. The Role of the Tree in the Founding of Whitaker's Chapel United Methodist Church.

The History of the Mighty Oak Tree

a. How old is the tree? No one knows for sure. Experts have placed its age at well over 300 years. When it dies, and the rings can be counted we will know for certain its age. Let us assume that it is about 350 years old, which would make its first day out of the ground about the year 1658

b. What was going on around the tree when it sprouted from a small acorn? The first English settlement at Jamestown, Va. in 1607 was only 50 years old when it sprouted. George Washington would not be born for another 82 years. The United States of American would not be a nation for another 120 years when this oak was a large tree. It was a mighty oak when our country divided in a great Civil War in 1861, when this tree was about 200 years old. Other historical examples may be added if desired.

c. When this tree was small, who was living here? Only the Native Americans, the Indians who lived in this area. For example the Saura tribe for whom Sauratown Mt. is named. They called the mountain "Jammokee" that we call Pilot Mountain.

d. When did the first settlers come to this area? In the first half of the 18th century or from about 1725-1750 when this tree was about 75 to 100 years old.

e. If the tree could talk, what do you think it might tell us? Might it tell us of the Indians who rested or cooked their food beneath its branches? Might it tell us of the Indian trails nearby, that became cleared paths, which became graded dirt roads, which gave way to the asphalt highways we have today? Might it tell us of the early settlers who came to establish homes and farms? Might it tell us of the men who lived nearby that marched off to the Revolutionary War, or the Civil War or the later World Wars? Oh, the stories it might tell of the sights that have passed in its view! Can you (the children) think of any stories it might tell, if it could speak?

f. This must be a special tree to have lived for so long. Most trees were cut down to make homes and barns, for firewood and furniture, but not this mighty oak. It survived two tornados the first that we know of was on May 3, 1881, and the second one exactly 78 years later on May 3, 1959. It survived all the lightning strikes that must have occurred over the many years, and now Duke Power Co. has wired the tree so that if lightning does strike it no harm will come to the tree. It is a very special oak tree.

g. How big around do you think this mighty tree is? Why don't all the children place themselves around the tree and with outstretched arms hold hands and then we will measure it. We will let all the children guess the distance around the tree and award a prize to the child that has the closest guess.

The Tree and Whitaker's Chapel United Methodist Church

a. The story of the founding of Whitaker's Chapel United Methodist Church begins with the story of Mr. Giles Whitaker whose name was given to the church.

b. Who was Mr. Giles Whitaker? Mr. Whitaker was born in the year 1842 here in Surry County. He joined the 21st North Carolina Regiment around the age of 20 and participated in the Civil War. He was a very religious young man who avoided the common vices of the times and eventually served as the chaplain to Company C of the 21st Regiment, helping his fellow soldiers draw closer to their Heavenly Father in the times of the hardships of war. After the war, he returned to Surry County and here in what was then called the Deron Community and became a farmer. In 1882, he built the house here with his own hands and raised his family. His devotion to God and his fellow man continued through the ensuing years, and as we shall see the mighty oak played a large role in his service to the Lord.

c. How did the tree help Mr. Whitaker to carry out this mission of service? In those early days there was not a church nearby, the closest one being a walk of miles to reach. So where better to hold a church service than under the spreading branches of the mighty oak which sheltered people from the hot sun. When the weather was disagreeable, he would conduct church service in a small building which was located right across the road here. (Point) Although he was not an ordained minister, he was a devout Methodist, and when the circuit riding preacher was not present, Mr. Whitaker preached the sermon to his neighbors. Sunday school was held right here

for the children underneath the branches. One of the most memorable sermons preached here under the shade of this magnificent tree was one given by the Rev. James Needham who was affectionately known as "Father Needham." At that time, the area had been in the midst of a severe drought, crops had failed, and little rain had fallen for months. The sky was cloudless when people arrived that day for the service under the tree. Father Needham preached and prayed for rain. At the end of the service a heavy downpour of rain occurred and people had to hurry home. Mr. Whitaker continued to hold services under the tree until the formal organization for a church was formed in 1908, and after prayerful consideration the founding church members voted to name the church in honor of this devout, Godly man. During the years preceding the erection of the small, wooden church many sermons were preached by circuit riding Methodist ministers under the spread out arms of this great tree. And in time, it became known simply as the "Giles Whitaker Tree" a place where friends and neighbors could gather to hear the word of God.

d. About the time of the organization of Whitaker's Chapel Church, a sufficient amount of land was donated upon which to build the church. The present day church occupies the same land that was donated for the purpose a hundred years ago. Events were now set in motion that were soon to end the era during which this great tree had served as an assembly place for people to worship God. During the spring of 1908, a tent service was held by Rev. Fine near this great tree during which plans and organization for the new church were formulated and the charter members named. Services were continued during the years 1908 and 1909 in the old mill house that stood across the road that I mentioned earlier. Even yet still close enough for the old tree to provide shade and comfort for those who lingered after the service to congregate under its branches. Under the leadership of Mr. Whitaker, money, timber and labor were donated culminating in the erection in 1912 of the new church. The first pastor was the Rev. R.L. Doggett, and with this achievement the involvement of the "Giles Whitaker Tree" as a focal point of the affairs of the church came to an end.

e. In 1915, Mr. Whitaker sold his home and farm including the venerable old tree to Mr. J. W. Denny Sr. and moved to a nearby location. Thus a new chapter in the life of this mighty oak began. In the meantime, the church grew and prospered under the leadership of the Rev. J.W. Combs who served as pastor from 1916-1920. In 1920, Mr. Whitaker passed away ending a long and fruitful life in the service of both God and the community. Mr. and Mrs. Denny remained on the land for the remainder of their lives, raising their four children and becoming a highly respected farm family. Mrs. Denny remained an active member of Whitaker's Chapel Church from 1912 until 1991 when she moved to a nursing facility for the remainder of her life. Mrs. Denny's life spanned the era from listening as a child to Mr. Whitaker preach under the branches of this mighty tree to being an instrumental figure in the modern church that stands today a short distance from the farm on which she spent nearly her entire life. She left a saying about the old tree which is as appropriate today as it was when she uttered it long ago.

"The thought would come to me that if our faith were rooted as firmly as that tree is, we would be able to withstand the storms of life just like that tree."

And so we are left to wonder what great events that this old tree will see before it also passes into history. One can hardly believe that they will be more significant than those events that have passed before its view.

WHITAKER'S CHAPEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
PRESENTS
AS PART OF ITS CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION
1908-2008

'VOICES FROM THE PAST'

A DIALOGUE WITH THE REVEREND DR. MARQUIS LAFAYETTE WOOD

'THE CIRCUIT RIDING PREACHER'

Marquis Wood, Courtesy of
the Duke University Archives

INTRODUCTION

This evening's program seeks to recreate a sense of the life and times of a circuit riding Methodist preacher who served the then named Yadkin District including Mt. Airy and surrounding areas of Surry County. The Reverend Marquis Lafayette Wood served this District as a circuit riding preacher in 1858-59, as a pastor in 1868 and as a presiding elder in 1870-74. The availability of historical documentation for this program ranged from extremely scarce to non-existent. Through the assistance of the Surry County Historical Society and the research of Mount Airy historian, the late Ruth Minick, we were able to locate the diaries of Rev. Wood in the archives of Duke University. The particular diaries covering the years 1858-59 were obtained from a Bachelor of Divinity thesis, "The Life and Times of Marquis Lafayette Wood as Shown by his Diary" by Marquis Lafayette Lawrence, 1930. The copyright of this material is held by the University Archives Library of Duke University and is used with permission.

Reverend Dr. Marquis Lafayette Wood	*Mr. Chet Jessup*
Moderator	*Mr. John Broughton*

A SHORT BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF THE LIFE OF

The Reverend Dr. Marquis Lafayette Wood

1829-1893

Marquis Lafayette Wood was a Methodist clergyman, missionary and educator in the North Carolina Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church South. He was born on October 23, 1829 in Randolph County, North Carolina. He received his education at the Normal College in Randolph County receiving his A.B. degree in 1855. Rutherford College conferred a Doctor of Divinity degree on Reverend Wood in 1884. He served the Yadkin District in 1858-59 as a circuit riding preacher, principally in Mount Airy and in surrounding Surry County, helping to develop and build many of the area churches some of which are still in existence today. In 1860, Reverend Wood left the United States sailing as a missionary to China. The voyage from New York to Shanghai on board a sailing ship encompassed seven months rounding the Cape of Good Hope where some of the most violent of ocean currents are present. During the six years that he spent in China, he experienced the effects of the Tai Ping Rebellion one of China's darkest times. His wife, the former Ellen Morphis of Mt. Airy, died of illness while in China. Following his missionary labors in China, Rev. Wood returned to the Yadkin District in 1868 in the role of a pastor, and he later served as a presiding elder of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South from 1870 until 1874. In 1883, Rev. Wood was selected as the president of Trinity College, the forerunner of present day Duke University, a position in which he served with distinction until 1884. He is the only president of Duke University in its history that is also an alumnus of the University. During his long career, Rev. Wood served the following Districts; the Salisbury District, the Iredell District, the Surry Circuit, the Greensboro District and the Charlotte District. In addition to serving as a minister, Rev. Wood was deeply interested in the history of North Carolina Methodism. He collected and penned accounts of early western North Carolina churches and ministers. His manuscripts on Sunday School work in the Fayetteville District and the rise of Methodism in the Yadkin Valley are among his extant notes, letters and volumes. Rev. Wood died in Gibson, North Carolina on November 25, 1893. This evening's program will highlight the years 1858-59 during which Rev. Wood served in the Surry Circuit as its "circuit riding preacher."

WE wish to acknowledge, with gratitude, the assistance in the production of this Program provided by the Whitaker's Chapel Centennial Celebration Committee of Ms. Linda Covington, Mrs. Shannon Barber, Mrs. Pansy Broughton and Mrs. Kennette Thomas.